STAR OF MYSORE

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OUR EVENING DAILY
42nd
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

MYSURU Saturday 16th February 2019
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief: K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Saturday 16th February 2019

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 41 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 42nd year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are indeed beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru*. We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest. This, in addition to our weekly supplement on subjects of special interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

Birthday Party in public can earn a fine !

Tajikistan: The democratic Republic of Tajikistan is probably the only country in the world where celebrating a birthday outside the family home can earn offenders a hefty fine.

The recent case of Tajik pop star Firusa Khafizova, who got fined 5,000 somoni ($530) for celebrating her birthday in the company of friends outside her home, has once again drawn attention to one of Tajikistan's most bizarre laws.

According to the "Regulation of Traditions and Customs in the Republic of Tajikistan," the celebration of birthdays anywhere except in the privacy of the family circle is strictly forbidden, with offenders risking hefty fines.

As strange as that may sound, the law is actually enforced, with authorities going as far as using social media pictures and videos as proof against suspected offenders.

The Regulation of Traditions and Customs in the Republic of Tajikistan" was introduced in 2007 and expanded upon in 2017.

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* nor any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

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Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Journalism Then & Now

Also Schools Then & Now

Star of Mysore Mascot

Print media, newspapers and magazines have undergone a sea change in their shape, size and contents since the day the first newspaper had appeared in the early 17th century. Now, all over the world we find print media in its new *avatar* keeping pace with the modern graphic and digital technology. Even the manner in which the language is written and the style of reporting have changed. Whoever had heard of 'embedded journalist' and 'citizen journalist'? So much so, if you go to the archives and look at the old newspapers and magazines, you will be wondering at the gradual change that had taken place in the world of print media.

Just the other day, a gentleman, who has been freaking out on *Star of Mysore* and my column *Abracadabra* for the last 30 years, came to my office with *The Hindu* newspaper of 28th January 2019 and asked me to read one item in the column ***'From The Hindu Archives.'*** It was an obituary and the way it was written 100 years ago was too far removed from what we read these days. The obituary is about one Mr. Guptan Namboodiripad. Let me bodily lift the item and reproduce it here:

The Late Mr. Guptan Namboodiripad.

An esteemed and eminent Malayalee Brahmana gentleman has passed away by death, at Desamangalam, Shoranur, at the age of 67, of Mr. A.K.T.K.M. Guptan Namboodiripad, the Karnavan of his large illom since 1908, when he succeeded his illustrious predecessor, the late Mr. Narayanan Namboodiripad. The deceased was profoundly learned in Mathematics and Sanskrit and is known to have produced an excellent translation of the larger portion of the Bhagavat Gita. Early in life, he adopted Banking as a serious business and his Bank at Trichur was a well-known business institution in the Namboodiri world. He always took a deep and practised interest in the spread of English education among his own community and as one result, all the members of his own family have acquired a useful knowledge of English.

Mark the words **'late'** and also **'passed away by death.'** If I wrote this kind of obituary today, I would get a sack. But, for those days, this kind of writing and also providing of information about the dead person was acceptable.

Be that as it may, while we were still enjoying the obituary and the kind of information it contained, my friend suddenly, like out of the blue, mentioned about publishing in *Star of Mysore* **only positive news** on any one day of the year. Glad tidings. Only good news to the total exclusion of bad news. Omitting all the negative news completely for that one day. The negative news means news about violence, theft, cheating, corruption, accidents, etc.

Asked from where he got this quirky idea, he said he got it from the ***India Today*** magazine which has been bringing out one issue every year called ***'The Good News Issue'*** since last four years. It is also called ***'Happiness Issue'*** showcasing the power of the positive, whatever it means !

According to him these positive news stories, though published only one day in a year, is like a tonic. They benefit the readers mentally, physically and even emotionally. He mentioned that good news includes activities of people who organise Walkathons for good health, efforts to solve the man-animal conflicts, ways and means of ensuring that the benefits under government schemes reach the beneficiaries directly, special discoveries that would benefit the health of a person improving the quality of life, the achievers in the field of art, music, literature etc., etc.

According to him, reading such news items at least one day in a year would create positivity in the reader that he might say, "after all, there is so much of goodness in this world."

He suggested either the Teachers' Day or the Children's Day or Mahatma Gandhiji's birthday could be chosen for bringing out *'The Good News Issue'* of *Star of Mysore.* However, I asked him why not bring out 'The Good News Issue' of *Star of Mysore* on Valentine's Day! "Ah! You naughty," he said approvingly !

Be that as it may, the mention of 'good news' brings to my mind **how 'no news' becomes 'good news' in journalism** as told by my Journalism Professor.

Giving an example, he said when there is no news from the Vatican it is always good news. It means the Pope is keeping well. Of course, it is good news but nobody publishes that news saying, "Today Pope is keeping well"! Reader will laugh.

For now, the **good news** is that the *Star of Mysore* is celebrating its 42nd birthday today and it conducted a three-day ***Star of Mysore Education Fair*** in city as a prelude with over 80 educational institutions participating.

These schools and educational institutions are considered very popular with 'Star' value. I learn there were many more private educational institutions in Mysuru city alone. Apparently, the competitions will be among the well-known institutions. Naturally, showcasing these institutions to the people will help parents and students make their choice.

Surprisingly, we found some old institutions, I will call them 'heritage' institutions, who have enjoyed monopoly with no one to compete, except the ill-provided government schools, still continue to believe they are as good as they were in the past. One or two institutions did convey this message to us explaining why they would not participate in the *Star of Mysore* Education Fair. They forget the time tested dictum "If you have it, show it."

However, with the presence of institutions like National Public School (NPS), Excel Public School (EPS) and STG Group, the perception of a Public School in the minds of parents and also students has completely changed.

Some of the modern schools have Swimming Pools, Astro-Turf Playing Grounds of International Standard, horse riding, specialised Smart Class Rooms, Robotics etc., making these 'heritage' schools an apology. However, they could have showcased their schools as being good and also economical for the lower middle class of the society. Let it be.

In an age of competition, it is innovation and modern infrastructure that will attract parents and students. The huge number of visitors seen trooping into *Star of Mysore* Education Fair is proof that parents as well as the students want only the best and not the second best when they can afford to pay.

The publishers of *SOM* thought they too had a responsibility to serve the community, acting as a catalyst, in promoting modern educational institutions by showcasing them under one roof for the convenience of parents and students. It was in that noble spirit and intention, *SOM* held the *Education Fair* as part of **journalistic social responsibility.** Happy to report that it was a resounding success.

TAILPIECE: *Before leaving office, the gentleman asked: 'What is the secret of success for Star of Mysore?'*

The answer was not far to seek. I told him the time-tested sutra: "Duchess is pregnant, O God! Who done it?"

In this sutra, you have ***royalty, sex, scandal, religion and suspense. If a newspaper has a mixture of all these stuff, people will buy.*** *Here Duchess is unmarried royalty; being unmarried and getting pregnant is sex and scandal; the exclamation 'O God' is religion and, of course, the suspense is the question "Who has done it?"*

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"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

— Napoleon Bonaparte

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Thousands Pay Homage in city to Pulwama Martyrs

Mysuru, Feb.16 (SPN&BCT)- The city of Mysuru last evening joined the nation to pay homage to 44 martyred CRPF soldiers who were killed in a car bombing attack in Kashmir's Pulwama by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Solemn ceremonies were held across the city where people, cutting across party and religion barriers and holding candlelight vigils, expressed shock over the spine-chilling terror attack and called the terrorist strike a cowardly act. People showed their gratitude and sympathy for the attack victims and expressed solidarity with the families of the victims. They also prayed for the injured and wished for their speedy recovery.

More than 3,000 people assembled in the surroundings of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Palace North Gate, lit candles and prayed for the victims.

Youths, women and children and college students started pouring in to the Temple premises at around 6 pm and waited till dark to light the candles.

Holding the candles, they shouted slogans against Pakistan for the inhuman act.

Univocally they demanded the Centre to destroy the terror tents in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and also in Pak soil. They boosted the spirit of the Armed Forces by raising 'Jai Jawan' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

Another 2,000 people held candlelight vigil at Gandhi Square and expressed solidarity with the Armed Forces.

(See HOMAGE on page 54)

BRIGADE Mega HOME FEST
Feb 16 & 17 - Check page 11

Anniversary Special issue

INSIDE ARTICLES

- KBG's Abracadabra 06
- Vikram Muthanna's In Black & White 08
- Dr. Javeed Nayeem's Over a Cup of Evening Tea 12
- 'Down the Memory Lane' by K. Vijaya Kumar 14
- Mission Organic 16
- Fly on the Road 21
- Mysuru's Yelethota 22
- Interview with Nonagenarian R. Vasudeva Murthy 28
- From Beauty to Baking 32
- City artist explores Zulu Art 34
- Three Germans in Coorg 36
- A Modi-fied Tea Stall 40
- A Glimpse of the Geisha World by Girija Madhavan 42

NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our contributors and readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. —Ed

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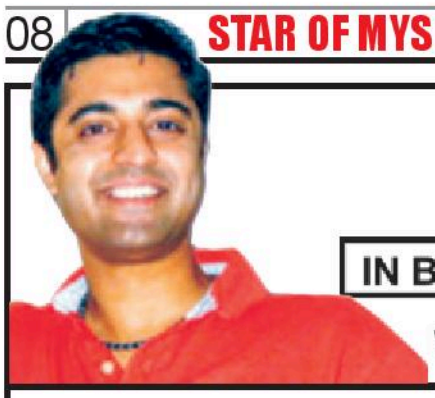

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Pink Trap & Home Science

Two days ago, our world had turned pink. It was Valentine's Day. It should have turned red but somehow many advertisements were in pink, implying it was targeted at women.

All this pink in the air reminded me of a video circulated in social media where a lady, in an attempt to speak about stereotyping women, starts off by stating, *"When a boy is born we deck him up in blue"*, then adds, *"But when it is a girl, it's all pink. Why?"*

The truth is this women's pink conundrum is self-inflicted. Why is the breast cancer ribbon pink? After all, men don't have a blue ribbon for testicular cancer. And why is there a *'Pink Chaddi'* Campaign? Why not just a *'Ladies Chaddi'* Campaign?

Also in a world where women want equality, it's odd that companies advertise in a manner to suggest men must buy things for women on Valentine's Day. And it's usually jewellery.

May be, a better Valentine's gift for women would be to offer men discounted courses in activities that are considered typically women-centric — a free session on 'home management' — how to buy vegetables and fruits and how to fix things around the house. This would lead men to appreciate women more and, who knows, in its own way, bring about a sense of equality.

Now, speaking of "home management" classes for men, it reminds us, whatever happened to Home Science classes in schools and colleges?

Home Science or Domestic Science was introduced by the British in India during 1920s. It garnered a lot of interest and by 1938, Madras University had Home Science as a degree - level course.

Just until a few decades ago, most schools taught basics of cooking and carpentry. Later it became "the diploma course" that made girls more eligible for marriage as it included "family management" and "home décor."

But over time it was seen as an "anti-feminist" diploma and men too preferred women who were money-makers rather than home-makers. Soon the course lost its charm.

Home Science was described as the science of managing a home — from managing relationships in a family to home décor to family nutrition to child development. Of course, these skills don't matter as we have double income households now.

In my family one of my aunts had got a diploma in Home Science and it did make a difference. Her home was well-decorated, well-managed, clutter-free and conflict-free. Even the dishes she served were well-presented and nutritious. She would have a nutrition story for each dish — some were good for the gut, some for the bones and most for the brains.

So maybe there is some truth when people say Home Science is both an art and science. As one Home Science teacher puts it, **"When you present a dish in an aesthetic manner it becomes an art. When you ensure that the meal offers a balanced nutritive diet, it becomes a science."**

Of course, with time even syllabus' change as it should. So now Home Science is less home-oriented and more job-oriented.

It has moved on from subjects such as Food Preservation (guess this is pickling), Meal Planning (guess this means cook with what you've got) and Family Dynamics (this we guess means managing the in-laws). Now, Home Science has specialised subjects which include Master's in Fashion Designing, Textile Designing, Dietetics, Counselling, Social Work, Development Studies, Entrepreneurship and Catering Technology.

But the time has come to go back to the old school Home Science — make people handymen. Two decades ago, many may remember we were taught basic carpentry, plumbing, electrical work and cooking in school. I studied in Demonstration School (DMS) where we were taught this. This made most of us very handy at home. Also students learnt to become self-reliant, understand principles of Maths and Science better and take a project from start to finish.

Now, very few schools teach these "handyman skills" so most older kids today do not know how to fix loose door hinges, toilet seats, change taps, replace simple switches or even light a gas stove.

This lack of knowledge of basic Home Science has generated demand for carpenters, plumbers, electricians and cooks — a demand so high that today you fear your maid more than your boss. In fact, she is the boss of the house. Also, we are unable to reprimand our plumber or electrician even if he comes at his leisure lest he refuses to show up at all.

For a while it didn't matter that you did not know basic Home Science because these services were inexpensive, but now all these services not only cost money but also time. That is why in most developed nations students are still taught basic Home Science called 'Shop Class' and every home has a tool kit and most of them know how to fix basic house problems.

May be next Valentine's Day the best gift you could give your partner is buy yourself a tool kit, watch a few do-it-yourself videos and become a handyman. Because in these expensive times being a handyman gets you more brownie points than being a husband.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

VOICE OF THE READER

Pondy addict greets *SOM*

Sir,

On the occasion of *Star of Mysore's* anniversary celebration, I want to THANK YOU KBG for being so generous in sending *SOM* copies to Pondicherry way back in 1998-99. Though I had thanked you personally at a gathering in *Olive Garden,* I thought our readers must know about your grateful act.

Way back in 1998 when I had to move to Pondicherry along with my husband from Mysore, I would miss reading *SOM* every evening. Right from my school days in 1987, I was used to reading *SOM* with a cup of tea.

I wrote a letter to you requesting for a copy of *Star of Mysore* to be delivered through post to Pondy. My wish was fulfilled. Like a Santa, you obliged and there I was in Pondy reading my favourite STAR sent by post free of cost.

Thanks for keeping us updated about our beautiful Mysore city. We realise the worth of our city only when we are away from it. Even when I was in USA for a year, I would read *SOM* online. I am proud to be a MYSOREAN.

—Poonam Ananth
Pondicherry
13.2.2019

Organic Farmers' Shandy

Mysuru, Feb.16- Nisarga Trust has organised Organic Farmers' Shandy (Savayava Raithara Santhe) at the Trust premises, No.794, 10th Main Road, D-Block, JSS College Road, J.P. Nagar, on Feb.17 (tomorrow) at 10 am.

For details, contact Ph: 0821-2543627 or Mob: 99015-93656.

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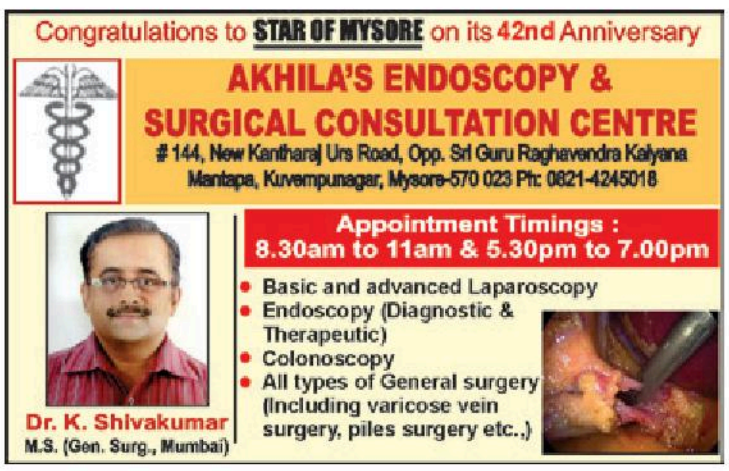
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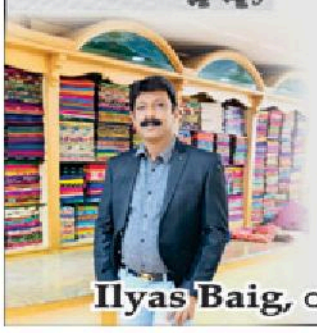

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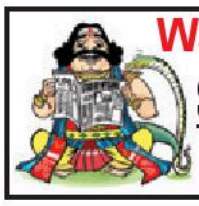

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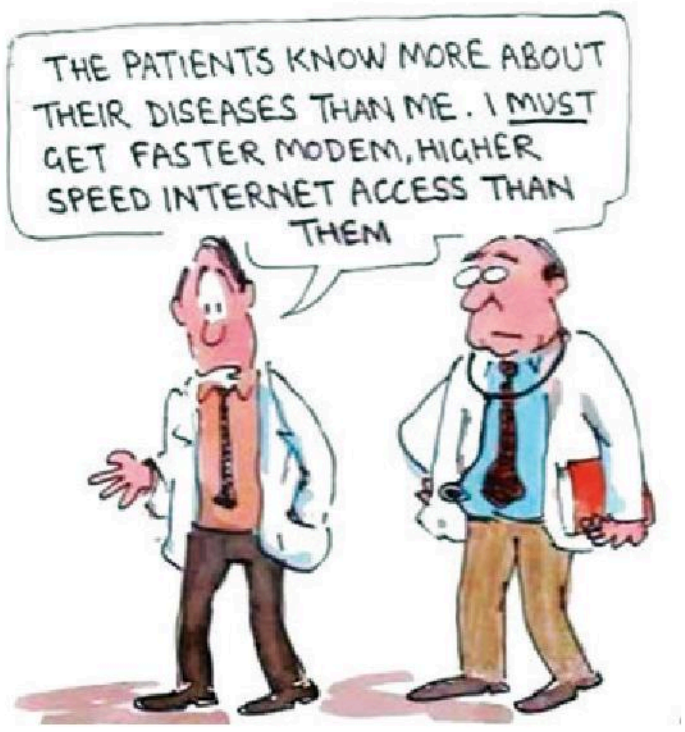
Over a cup of evening Tea

By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

Of Doctors & Patients
Effects and Side Effects !

These are days when one of the greatest relationships that once existed between doctors and patients has become one of the greatest divides. Contrary to what most folks think, this is not just in our country but across the entire world. The reasons for this sad state of affairs are many and they vary from country to country depending on how the medical treatment system works there. Much has been spoken and written about how patients view their doctors as exploiters who advise them to go through unnecessary tests and investigations which are very expensive too. So I will not harp on this issue here.



What I would like to highlight here is the apprehension that a great many patients build up these days when it comes to taking simple drugs which they have been using over many decades without inflicting any harm upon themselves. Because of the internet which has now actually become an extension of the body, thanks to the ubiquitous smart phone, most people who accompany patients to doctors' chambers begin looking up details of the drugs even as the doctors start writing the prescriptions.

Unfortunately, this seems to be particularly true in my case as I have the habit of writing all my prescriptions slowly in very clear capital letters ! So anyone who decides to know more about the drugs that I prescribe actually types at a faster speed than my writing, pausing to let me to finish. Very often the auto-complete feature in the phone takes over and spares him or her this agony. By the time I decide on the dosage and the frequency of the drug the smart person would have decided whether the drug is worthy of being taken or not !

Before leaving my consulting room they ask me whether all those drugs in my prescription are really necessary and safe too because kind-hearted Google tells them that they are capable of causing much harm by way of side effects. Earlier, when this situation was still more of an exception than a rule I used to take pains to reassure them by explaining that most of those side effects are extremely rare and easily manageable. Then when this problem became more common, I had to come up with a new solution. I now ask them to first look up the side effects of some of the very common 'over the counter' medications which they take for their colds, coughs and fevers. That is when they look up at me with panic and say that they never knew that they were exposing themselves to so much danger. I have therefore found this strategy very useful in my practice. You'll see why.

The most commonly used drug, Paracetamol or Acetaminophen that is present in almost every formulation taken by most people for their aches, pains, fevers and colds can be a killer too. I say this because the internet says so ! At its mildest, it can cause severe itching, rashes, disfiguring dark patches all over the body, mouth ulcers and very painful and ugly blisters that refuse to go away even with years of very expensive treatment. At its worst, it can cause your skin to peel off and all your fingertips to rot and your nails to fall off. It can also cause bloody stools and urine, severe jaundice and a very painful death due to liver failure.

Now, how is that for a fearful picture of what hell can be? But all this does not have to happen and it does not happen to the millions of paracetamol users across the world. It is only a theoretical possibility. But it is the duty of the internet to give you all the information related to your query. It is up to you to weigh the risks and to sift the grain from the chaff and decide whether to take the drug with the attendant risks or suffer the pain and discomfort of not taking it.

Let me make one thing very loud and clear. The human mind may be capable of doing amazing things. But it also suffers from a very amazing weakness. Once you put a tiny element of doubt into it you can cripple it miserably. That is why people ruin their lives when they begin to suspect the sincerity and honesty of their friends or even the fidelity of their spouses instead of trusting them. That is why people suffer so much when they are unsure of what can happen to them. And, that is also why even the most incapable astrologers are so much in demand even by some of the most educated people !

Your internet information about the drug prescribed to you can nag you like nothing else can. I have seen it driving people nuts by making them lose sleep over the dilemma of whether to take a drug or not. And, even when they do take it, they invariably begin to imagine that they are experiencing all the side effects mentioned by the internet !

But the funniest and perhaps the stupidest thing is that even people who are apprehensive of taking drugs prescribed by fully qualified doctors do not mind eating what can literally be called rubbish on the roadside. They eat fiery, spice-laden chats and street foods and quench the fire in their bellies with water teeming with all kinds of bacteria and viruses. They do not give a second thought to what additives go into their food as long as these give an irresistible taste to it. They smoke and drink without the least restraint and without daring to ask dear Google what these two partners in crime can do to their minds and bodies. They sniff in lethal snuff and also munch on mouthfuls of tobacco, fully aware that they are only inviting a painful death.

They happily gorge themselves on food served at lavish wedding feasts without checking if it has been prepared hygienically or not. Actually, it is at such feasts where hygiene is compromised most. A simple peep behind the curtains will show you what I mean. Even the most educated and enlightened people will not only gobble up large quantities of processed foods themselves every passing day but also let their children grow up on chemical-laden foods that they should not even be touching in their childhood. **This is the bane of leading life on the fast lane where cooking themselves proper meals is near impossible amid their busy schedules.**

People smear themselves with layers upon layers of sweet smelling cosmetics and dye their hair with hues that can put a rainbow to shame without bothering to know if they can cause cancers which they actually can. When people go to their doctors with aches and pains most of them are not happy with the reassurance that they are just nuisances and are best left untreated. They expect this reassurance to at least be supported by an accurate diagnosis. So many people, just because they do not mind spending money, insist on getting CT scans done for the most trivial problems. When it comes to scans the CT scan is a hot favourite unlike the MRI which is considerably more expensive and cumbersome although relatively less harmful.

The humble ultrasound scan, the most harmless and yet the most useful of all scans, is something that they relegate to the dustbin because it has been around for too long now and is now found at every street corner. Besides, because it costs just around five hundred rupees or even less they think it is infra dig to go through one ! They think that a CT scan is a magic eye that sees through their bodies and shows up every single malformation and malfunction. It is actually not so. Almost none of them know that in that unnecessary CT scan lurks a great deal of danger because one CT scan exposes their bodies to a dose of radiation equivalent to the radiation from several hundred x-rays.

So, what is the solution to this problem now? **Let me tell you that the best approach is to trust your doctor and follow his or her advice as something given in good faith. It may have its inherent dangers no doubt but they are very minimal. They are certainly not as dangerous as the hidden dangers lurking all around you from which there is just no escape !**

e-mail:
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Car Wash Devaraju

on Devaraja Urs Road

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

If you ever thought car washing was small business, here is a man who defies that notion. Three decades of his life spent on one road and he is still going strong. He is tall, well-built and means business as he wears a T-Shirt, rolls up his trousers and starts cleaning four-wheelers parked on D. Devaraja Urs Road every morning. He strongly believes in the adage 'Work is Worship' and takes great pride in his job, thus attracting everyone's attention.

Devaraju

A resident of Ashokapuram, Car Cleaner Devaraju has won the confidence of car owners. Even though the number of car cleaning services (fully automatic ones) has gone up, keeping pace with the growth in vehicular numbers, Devaraju's clientele has not dropped.

He cleans cars parked at the junction of Devaraja Urs Road and JLB Road opposite '*Coffee Mane.*' His work starts as early as 6 am when he comes with a bucket, three or four cleaning clothes and a mug. The work goes on till 1 pm, almost at the same spot.

If customers who come for shopping ask him to clean their cars, he readily does it. His other customers include those who come and park their cars at 6 am while they go for jogging, walking or playing games at the nearby Maharaja's College Grounds. Those who come after 7 am for coffee and breakfast also get their cars cleaned. Every day he cleans five to ten cars.

Devaraju uses just one or two buckets of water to clean any car. By using very little water, he cleans and makes the car surface shine. Customers return a happy lot with his service and hence there are many who are using his services since a number of years.

"I started cleaning cars on Devaraja Urs Road before I got married. It is 28 years now since I got married. I have two children. I have got my daughter married and I am educating my son. I do not consider this job demeaning. When I started this work I was being paid only Rs.2 per car. Now, I earn anywhere between Rs.30, Rs.50 and Rs.100 depending on the customer. Many who come from Kodagu look for me to get their cars cleaned," he says.

Explaining the cleaning process, Devaraju says, "First I wash the dust on the car with water and then I use a clean cloth to wipe it. Later I clean the mat inside the car. Finally, I wipe the car with cloth and polish."

"There are customers who are with me since 20 years. Officials, people who work in companies and others get their cars cleaned by me. I will not give up this job and will do it with all dedication. In spite of many service stations opening, I do not have shortage of customers and I lead a satisfied life. From the time of Ambassadors to Fiats, I now clean all the latest models," he says with pride.

So next time you go shopping on D. Devaraja Urs Road, look out for Namma-Nimma Devaraju !

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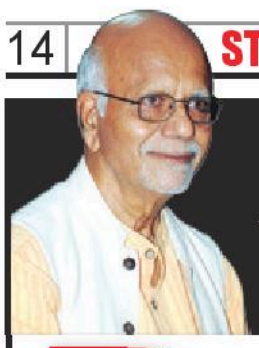


Down The Memory Lane

By K. Vijaya Kumar
Former Jt. Director of Information & Publicity

Durga Das

Journalist Par Excellence

Durga Das [1900-1974]

A Legendary Personality who has carved a niche in his Profession

He is beyond description. Reporter, Editor, Feature Writer, Political Analyst and more — his close contact with British Heads in India and National leaders from Gandhiji to his close associates. In fact, he was sought by all of them on too many occasions.

Taking back my memory to seventies, I first came across his name as Editor-in-Chief and Founder of **INFA (India News and Feature Alliance)**, a fortnightly syndicated column started in November 1959, which was subscribed by our Department to all the District Information Centres. Local newspapers were also making use of it. I was very eager to read it for its news and feature analysis on development in India and States by top experts. I used to preserve items written by Das, as I was a student of Journalism. He says, "INFA is most rewarding achievement of my Journalistic Career" which had spread over 55 years starting with K.C. Roy's *Associated Press of India, PTI, The Statesman* and *Hindustan Times* as Editor-in-Chief.

"INDIAN HISTORY SEEN FROM THE INSIDE"

In order to know what a rare Journalist Durga Das was and the extraordinary role played by him in the country's history during the stirring times, one has to read his 500-page fascinating and wholly absorbing book (more his memoir) titled *'India From Curzon To Nehru And After,'* first published in early 1969. The material for the book, according to Das, is based on his 20 million words of straight reporting, features, analysis and comments, besides half a million of words in the form of notes in shorthand.

Dr. Zakir Husain, the 3rd President of India, in his foreword (March 20, 1969) says: "Here is Indian History seen from the inside. He has discharged honourably the debt he owes the Nation of telling the story of a working Journalist's life, lived intensely and dedicated to the service of this country and the promotion of international understanding."

GOLD MINE OF A BOOK

This one para description of the book is suffice to highlight how Durga Das has unfolded the story to the History of the twentieth century: "This fast-moving, lively and independent account of the politics and international affairs is enriched by intimate, perceptive and far from uncritical sketches of great leaders such as Gandhi, Jinnah, Nehru, Desai and Patel. Perhaps, no other book reminds the reader so firmly that politics, even at its most exalted and dramatic, is about people. Certainly, no one who is interested in India, in the history of British imperialism, or in the realities of present day Asia, can neglect this gold mine of a book." Indeed, no exaggeration.

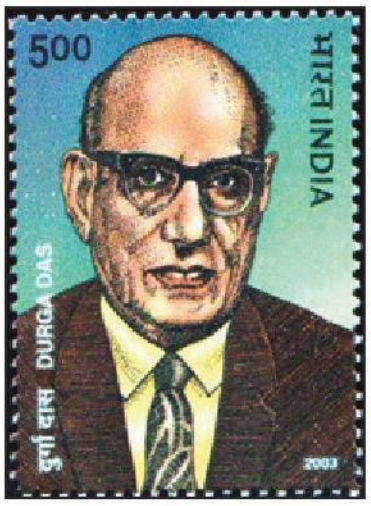
JOURNALISM BEACONS

His destiny of Journalistic career for nearly 55 years, besides being a busiest newsman in Delhi, also saw him undertake foreign travel over twenty times across the world which provided him an opportunity of holding dialogues with top world personalities, among them five British Prime Ministers, three US Presidents, three Prime Ministers of Japan, two Chancellors of West Germany, two Chairmen of the Soviet Union and Presidents Tito and Nasser. What a stature Durga Das had enjoyed with them as an eminent Indian Journalist!

During his first voyage to London in summer 1931, referring to the Indian freedom struggle, he records: "The British, a nation of shopkeepers, would react to a blow struck where it hurts most. It would take ages to work on the British conscience alone."

CURZON AND NEHRU

His impression on both: "Lord Curzon was the First of the Viceroys of India, Nehru was the Last of the Glittering Tribe. Curzon left behind a Lore, Nehru a Legend." This cliche has been employed by Nehru's admirers, likewise by his detractors. Yet it embodies a substantial truth.



The Department of Posts issued a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Durga Das on May 2, 2003

GANDHI, PATEL, NEHRU

Durga Das had established special relationship with Gandhiji and records how we had studied him: "Gandhi perceived every problem with the shrewdness of a *bania* (trader). He used his legal talent to sell his creed and programme. He was convinced that the British were in India for material gain and that if the economic ties between India and Britain were weakened or surrendered, they would cut their losses and depart."

When the formation of Interim government was taken up in August 1946, under the guidance of Gandhi, Congress Working Committee preferred with full majority Sardar V. Patel as Prime Minister as they felt he was the "Iron Man with his feet firmly planted on earth."

JAWAHAR IS THE ONLY ENGLISHMAN

But, when Gandhiji's choice became Nehru as PM, Durga Das asked him as to why he preferred Nehru. Gandhiji with a laughter replies, "Jawahar is the only Englishman in my camp!" And then added: He will make India play a role in international affairs. Sardar will look after country's affairs. They will be two Oxen yoked to the Government Cart.

When Das mentions it to Rajendra Prasad he tells, "...Gandhi had once again sacrificed his trusted lieutenant for the sake of 'the glamorous Nehru'."

'BIG LITTLE MAN'

After Nehru, what? Das writes: "Lal Bahadur Shastri — now the 'Big little man' stepped into Nehru's shoes somewhat diffidently. ...He was painfully aware that he lacked Nehru's overpowering personality and the Nehru legend was, as he himself confessed, no easy burden to live with."

WITNESS TO PULSATING DRAMA

The following record mirrors the roles played by him when he writes: "I was a witness at very close quarters of this pulsating drama, the ebb and flow of the struggle for freedom. I know intimately the men and women who shared its hazards and rewards. Twas bliss to be alive in those stirring times."

EPILOGUE

In a ten-page Epilogue, he ends with this destiny: "Gandhi and Patel carved out a destiny for themselves and the country; Jawahar Lal Nehru was the child of destiny; Lal Bahadur Shastri was thrown up by destiny; Indira Gandhi is an instrument of destiny. What that destiny is the late seventies may reveal." (Das dies in 1974) ▪

e-mail: kumarkv59@gmail.com

Durga Das with Dr. M.A. Ansari, Gandhi host in Delhi, and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, former Congress President, at a Tea Party to celebrate the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in March 1931. Das scooped the World Press and his despatch was the first agency message to be printed by The Times on its main news page. Picture right shows Das with President Johnson at the White House on his world tour in 1967.

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Mission Organic

Belavala Foundation — Scripting Success in Organic Farming

By Kavitha Mhatre

The organic farming scene in India has two scenarios. One that has farmers and consumers hesitant to join the organic bandwagon because of higher production costs, limited market, expensive organic produce, lack of government subsidies for organic inputs and lengthy certification processes one has to go through in order to acquire an 'organic' label.

And then there is the other scenario where 'natural farming' aficionados like Dr. Ramakrishnappa tell you a completely different story with respect to organic farming. His narrative is simple — organic farming is easy and anyone can do it. All it takes is good old common sense, patience and loads of passion for this alternative form of agriculture.

No fertilizers, no pesticides, no chemicals

And so passionate is Dr. Ramakrishnappa about organic farming that after he retired as a senior officer from the Horticulture Department of Karnataka, he dedicated his time and effort to build an organic farm in Belagola village, Mysuru. This nurturing space, spread over six acres of land, bursts with trees, plants and saplings of over 200 varieties. Mangoes, papayas, plums, peaches, avocados, spinach, exotic spices, medicinal herbs and peculiar flora which are cultivated and produced without the use of any chemical or pesticide are just some of the few species that make up this green haven.

Dr. Ramakrishnappa explaining about organic mangoes at his farm.

Techie-turned-horticulturist Veda Prabhu, who owns an organic farm near Belagola village, also assists Dr. Ramakrishnappa at Belavala.

What's more to this 'zero chemical' farm?

Now, what is unique about this organic farm that uses only organic manure is the fact that it is just not a farm bursting with fresh, natural fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices. It is also a space that has been established with the objective of imparting knowledge of agro-ecological farming practices to anyone keen on learning the science and methodology behind organic farming. The farm, which is called **'Belavala Foundation'** is headed by Dr. Ramakrishnappa, who has 35 years of working experience in the agricultural sector, his wife Manjula, and a small team of six people.

Trainings, workshops and programmes

Belavala Foundation offers training programmes at three levels:

1) Farm Tour: Through this half-day farm tour and interaction, 'organic farming' aspirants and others who are keen on understanding the concept of natural farming are taught the basic tenets and principles of organic farming.

2) Hands-on-training: Through a series of intensive practical workshops, novice and experienced farmers are taught about 'The Principles of Ecological Farming.' Concepts central to sustainable farming like soil rejuvenation, benefits of crop diversity and the use of organic manures like 'panchagavya' and 'jeevamrita' are covered in detail through this module.

[Continued on page 18]

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Ramakrishnappa-Manjula couple at work.

Soursop (mullina ramphala) grown at the farm.

[Continued from page 16]

3) Concept-driven workshops: Belavala Foundation organises lectures and discussions on popular farming subjects which are delivered by industry experts. Some of the topics covered in this module are 'Art of Bee-Keeping'; 'Seed Conservation and Production.'

When asked about his plans for training expansion, Dr. Ramakrishnappa, in an informal chat tells *Star of Mysore*, "One of our goals this year is to start conducting training programmes on organic farming for school children. We believe that these training programmes will teach young minds to have a greater appreciation for food, animals, nature and the ecosystem around them."

"When children understand these concepts well, they are inclined to make organic food choices and in doing so, they influence their families to make that switch from chemical-based food products to organic-based food products. And when families make the choice to go organic, there is a demand for organic food. And when there is a demand, there is a supply, which encourages the farmer to produce organic products, which in turn breaks the limited organic market cycle."

Knowledge sharing and learning not just restricted to India

Belavala Foundation's experiment with organic farming stands out as a model not only with small and marginal farmers, but also to players from the national and global farming scene. Some of the most prominent organic farmers who have visited Belavala Foundation are:

1. Jon Jandai, a well-known farmer in Thailand, who is also known as a leader in bringing the natural building movement to Thailand. During his visit to Mysuru, he shared his experiences as a farmer at an interaction session with organic farmers organised by Belavala Foundation

2. Dr. Ken Love, Hawaii's fruit king and fruit specialist, during his visit to Mysuru, delivered a special lecture at Belavala Foundation. Preservation, building a value addition and generating a better market for tropical fruits were some of the topics his lecture covered.

3. Ramesh Balatugi, one of Karnataka's most prominent sandalwood farmers, was at Belavala Foundation to help farmers understand the techniques of sandalwood farming.

4. Shivanapura Ramesh is a farmer well-known for his innovative chemical-free agricultural practices. His nursery with 200 species of fruits, flowers, medicinal plants in Bengaluru is known to have supplied decorative plants to embellish and beautify the gardens of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

Despite farms like the Belavala Foundation that serve as a model for natural farming, the organic movement is still considered an expensive process in India — one that requires steady expenditure, without the guarantee of faster results and bigger yields. As a result, convincing farmers to make that switch to organic, which could lead to an immediate financial impact on their earnings is a huge challenge in the country right now.

[Continued on page 19]

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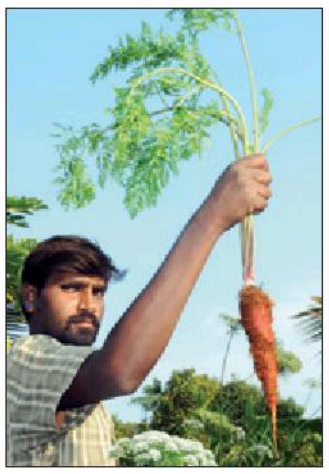

A farm worker displays the near extinct desi carrot.

[Continued from page 18]

"More education, more training, more awareness on the benefits of natural farming is what is required today. It is the lack of knowledge and ignorance that leads farmers and consumers to believe that organic farming is expensive. As an ex-official of Horticulture Department and someone who has been on both sides of the fence (chemical and organic farming) for 35 years, I know for a fact that 'organic' is the future, 'organic' is inexpensive in the long run and 'organic' is the only way to go. So, I have made it my mission now to educate as many people as I can on the benefits of natural farming. Other organic farmers should also encourage people to visit their farms and learn their best practices. What is the point of having all of this knowledge and not sharing it with others to help create a better future," he asks?

Knowledge is of no value until you put it into practice. Now, here's a man who is not only putting his knowledge into practice, but insists on sharing it with others so that they can better their lives, bodies and minds. Yes, Belavala is an organic farm with a difference. But after speaking to its passionate founders, we conclude that what makes this farm truly unique is just not its vision and objective, but also the compassion and fellow feeling of its founders. The patience with which the connection between soil, humans, animals, and plants are explained leaves one questioning, "Why haven't I learnt this before?" So, to anyone in and around Mysuru, if you have a day to spare and you are looking to connect with nature, understand how your food is produced and what you can do to improve your health and surrounding ecosystem, we recommend a trip to Belavala.

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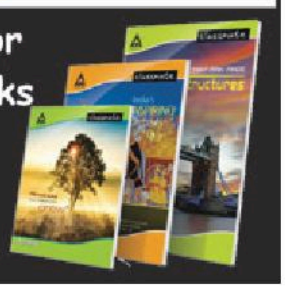

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2.46 lakh passengers use FlyBus service in 2018-19 till January end

By Ramesh Kebbehundi

The FlyBus service between Mysuru and Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is the most sought-after mode of transport between the two destinations. A hassle-free journey, round-the-clock safety and accurate schedule at an affordable price has all the more made the service attractive and reliable for travellers.

The FlyBus service was launched six years ago and earlier, Mysureans used to cough up anywhere between Rs.4,000 - Rs.6,000 to reach the Airport taking private taxis. Now, they just pay Rs.800 per head. In the beginning, the fare was Rs.1,000 per head and now due to popularity, the fares have come down to Rs.800.

Initially, the service faced teething troubles with fewer passengers and KSRTC struggled to achieve a break-even. Now, the service has turned out to be profitable and what more, even the commuters are happy and give a Thumbs Up!

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, KSRTC Divisional Controller, Central Division, Bengaluru, **A.G. Prabhakara Reddy** whose Division manages the FlyBus service, said this luxury bus service is a tremendous success and has generated a lot of revenue.

The FlyBus service will be expanded to include more destinations. On the Mysuru route, we have service till Madikeri. From that Hill Town, people can have a hassle-free travel till KIA. Almost all travellers of the FlyBus have complimented us for a safe and timely travel," he said.

[Continued on page 26]

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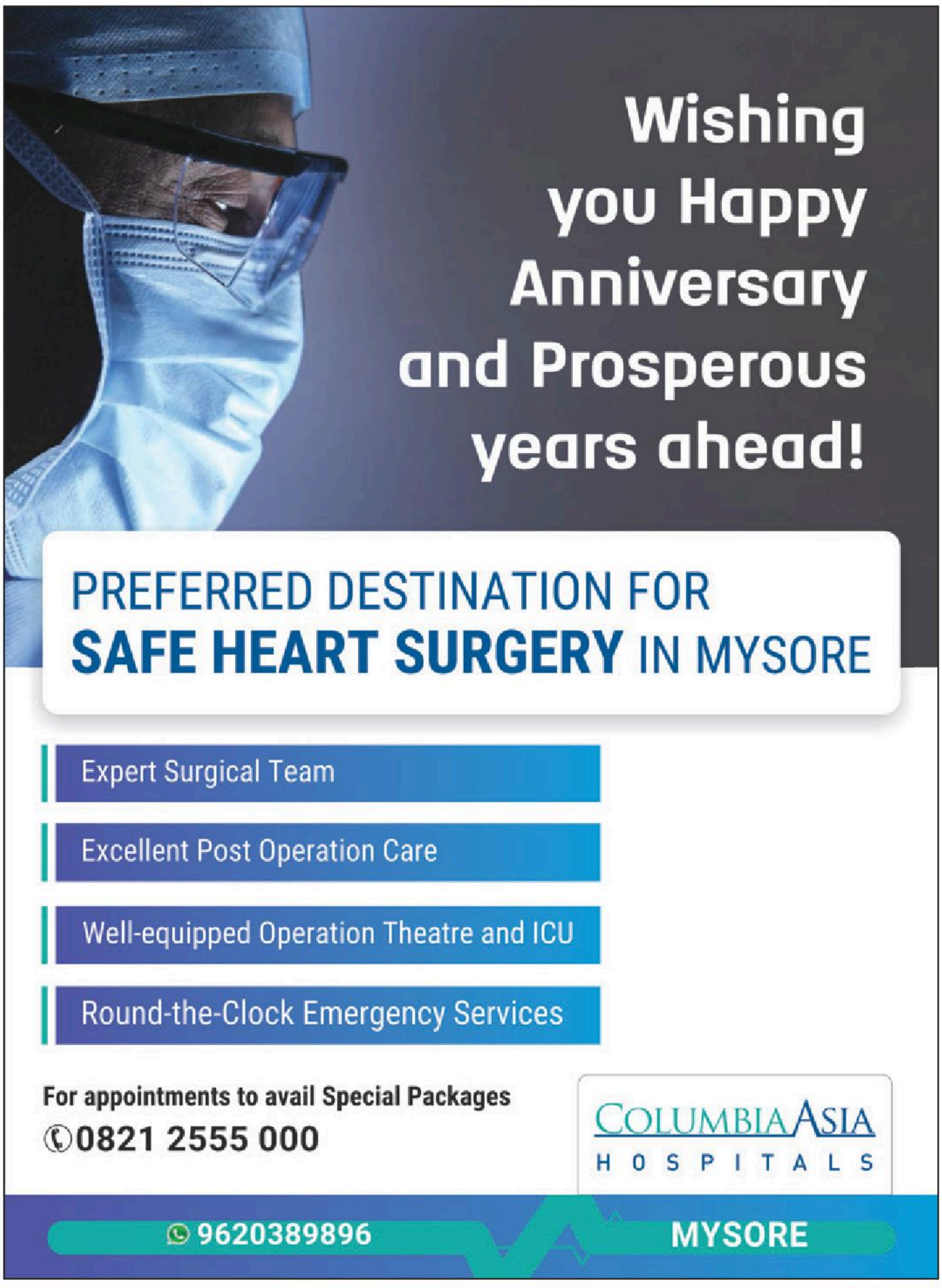

REAL ESTATE WITHERS NAMMA MYSURU'S

yelethota

By Ramesh Kebbehundi

Brand crops from Mysuru like *Mysore Vilyedele (Chigurele)* and *Mysore Mallige* have brought a special fame to the city. However, unfettered modernisation and expansion of real estate — concrete jungle — in leaps and bounds have literally threatened the existence of these crops.

If *Mysore Mallige* became the first victim of ungirdled development with the areas of cultivation significantly reducing over the years, *Mysore Vilyedele* is the second brand crop to fall prey to urbanisation. And both the crops will soon go down in history if the government fails to come up with solutions to protect the crops that enjoy Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

UNIQUE TO MYSURU

Mysore Vilyedele, a native to this region, has been used by people in this milieu from time immemorial. The Mysore betel leaves which were grown in the gardens of Maharajas were later spread to hundreds of acres from Poornaiah Choultry in Old Agrahara to Vidyaranyapuram Junction, which connects the Mysuru-Nanjangud Road. And this area is popular as **Yelethota** *(yele* in Kannada means leaves and *thota* means estate).

It was said that Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar offered these leaves to his guests at Mysore Palace. Mysore betel leaf is a variety of heart-shaped betel (Piper betel) leaf and is eaten as a betel quid or as paan with or without tobacco. A sheaf of betel leaves is traditionally offered as a mark of respect and auspicious beginnings.

CONDUCIVE CLIMATE

This leaf has a delectable rancidity, coupled with unique texture and flavour. As demand for this special crop grew, it spread to about 700 acres around Mysore. Unique climate and soil in this stretch gave the leaves a unique taste that earned it the name *Mysore Chigurele* (Mysore sprout leaf).

These betel leaves are different from other betel leaves because of their smooth texture and hot taste. And for this unique taste and texture, it has earned the GI status. The Office of Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks brought this leaf 'GI tagged' under the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods Act (1999) in 2005 in order to help growers of Mysuru to have the right exclusively to brand their product using the term Mysore betel leaf.

RAPID URBANISATION

However, rapid urbanisation, scarcity of labour, plastic pollution, lack of water sources, depletion of ground water table, increase in labour and cultivation, disinterestedness of the younger generation to continue the profession of their ancestors are forcing the growers to stop its cultivation.

The earlier 700 acres of land in Mysuru has been reduced to a few acres now. Hundreds of marginal growers, majority of them SC/ST families from Ashokapuram, who have been cultivating this crop from the last four generations, are now moving away from this.

The cultivation areas, which stretched from Shankara Mutt to Koppaluru in J.P. Nagar, from K.G. Koppal to Ashokapuram, have now been transformed into large residential layouts, hospitals and colleges. Now only Gomate Farm, Anekarati Farm, Koduge Farm, Basavanagudi Farm and Hosa Farm are among some of the prominent betel leaf farms in city.

ABOUT CULTIVATION

According to Horticulture Department, betel leaf is a tropical vine and it needs a warm and humid climate. It thrives best under shade and in a temperature ranging from 10 to 40 degrees. Black clay soil along with hot and humid climate gives Mysore betel leaf its special characteristics.

[Continued on page 24]

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yelethota

[Continued from page 22]

Mariswamy

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, President of Ashokapuram Mysore Vilyedele Growers Federation **Mariswamy** said that growers were facing a threat from real estate sector as they are being forced to sell their land due to close proximity to main roads and city headquarters. This is a labour-intensive crop and these days, labour is hardly available.

RELUCTANCE TO CONTINUE

"My family has been growing this variety since four generations in a few guntas of land given by Maharajas to my ancestors near Koduge Farm close to Madhuvana on Mysuru-Nanjangud Road. However, I am not able to continue cultivation due to high labour costs, pollution, depletion of ground water, lack of water resources and rapid urbanisation. Moreover, my children are reluctant to continue this profession due to competition and lack of government support," he rued.

"Earlier, growers used to draw water from the storm water drain that originates from Doddakere Maidan and pass through their farms. But now this drain has become a sewage drain. Flooding caused by this clogged drain brings huge amount of plastic during rainy season and results in water logging and turns our farms into plastic waste yard," he regretted.

SCARCE WATER

Some years back, growers could easily get water if they dug a few meters but now they face a herculean task to get water to maintain their farms during summer as water sources are either blocked, dried up or diverted into drainages, Mariswamy rued.

Successive governments have turned a blind eye towards protecting such unique farms and many helpless growers have made up their mind to sell their land as it is fetching a good price due to rise in real estate market.

Deputy Director of Horticulture Dr. Manjunath said that the Department was encouraging horticulture growers to take up the cultivation of Mysore betel leaves as an inter-crop with arecanut and coconut. He claimed that the Department provides incentives and subsidies under National Horticulture Mission, Comprehensive Horticulture Programmes and other schemes to the growers.

'City Market sees only 2% *Mysore Vilyedele*'

Mohammed Sardar, who runs a provision store and is into selling betel leaves including *Mysore Vilyedele* at Devaraja Market since 20 years, said that about a dozen sellers have been selling all varieties of betel leaves including the famed *Mysore Chigurele* in City Market and other areas.

"A majority of customers including local *beeda* and *paan* shop owners prefer *Mysore Vilyedele* for consumption, wedding, pujas and religious rituals. Sadly, the demand is high and that much leaves are not available. Also, the Mysore leaf is hot in taste that is not preferred by people who like a mild taste," he said.

"The supply has almost stopped due to urbanisation. Only a few growers from J.P. Nagar and Koduge Farm are supplying this variety once or twice a week," he said. While most of the *Mysore Vilyedele* is sent outside Karnataka, only two percent of Mysore betel leaves arrive at the City Market. To ease the shortage, sellers purchase leaves from Udbur, Nanjangud, Chikkakatur, Channapatna, H.D. Kote, K.R. Nagar and Hunsur. These leaves almost resemble Mysore betel leaves and matches its taste to some extent. They are conveniently marketed as *Mysore Vilyedele !*

City traders also purchase betel leaves from Salem and the leaves are yellowish and smaller in size. There is huge demand for Salem leaves from local *paan* shop owners and people from Kodagu for its mild taste. Some local *beeda* and *paan* shops purchase leaves from Banaras, Kolkata, West Bengal and even Bangladesh.

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Fly on the Road

[Continued from page 21]

The KSRTC which started FlyBus service with just one bus twice a day between KIA and Mysuru on Aug.13, 2013 is now operating 11 buses with 20 trips daily. "In the initial days, the response was very poor. However, the service picked up later gradually," Prabhakara Reddy explained.

With direct bus connectivity between Bengaluru Airport and small towns, KSRTC has registered a sharp spike in ridership between KIA and Mysuru, Madikeri, Kundapur and Coimbatore.

According to officials, even if the occupancy is 50%, the profit per kilometre is almost double. KSRTC spends Rs.49-Rs.50 per kilometre to operate a FlyBus, while it earns a revenue of Rs.85-Rs.90 per kilometre. The buses are equipped with GPS locators that will provide real-time information on expected time of arrival.

Other features include chemical toilet, seats fitted with TV screens capable of streaming over 70 live channels and Video on Demand using WiFi. The buses have artificial leather seats with increased leg room. Passengers can also access information on flight arrivals and departures.

M.N. Umesh of Vidyaranyapuram is a regular passenger between KIA and Mysuru. "FlyBus is the best. It is cheap and safe. We can carry more luggage and travel comfortably when compared to taxis where we end up paying a minimum of Rs.4,000 per trip," he says.

Mysuru to KIA year-wise details [Madikeri included]

Number of passengers travelled

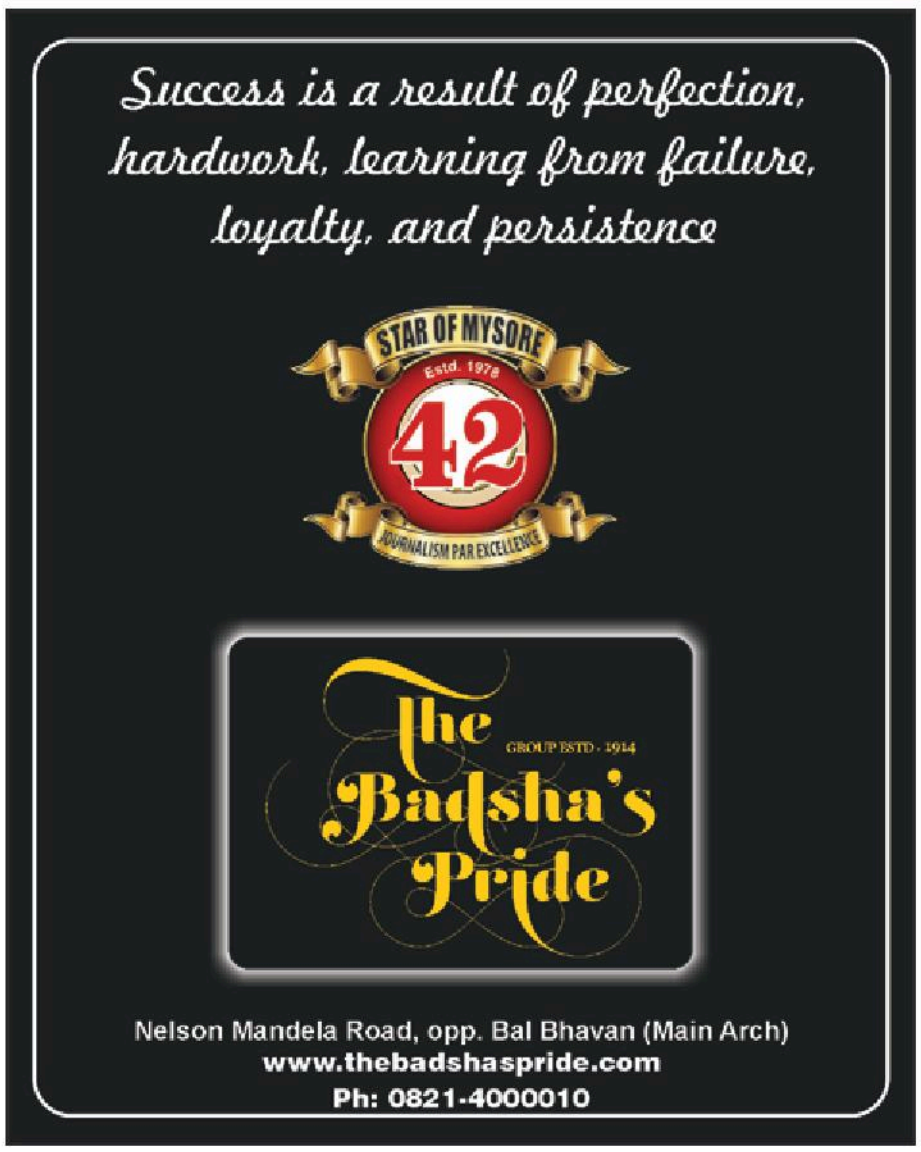
2013-14 Aug. to Mar.	8,676
2014-15	23,603
2015-16	66,839
2016-17	1,46,912
2017-18	1,93,234
2018-19 till Jan.31	2,46,141

"I need not get down anywhere and the bus directly connects the KIA. Earlier, I had to book taxis online and wait for long hours at the airport. FlyBus has changed the scenario now," he says with a smile.

The number of passengers, who use FlyBus services between KIA and Mysuru, has increased from 8,676 in 2013-14 to more than 2.46 lakh in 2018-19 (till the end January). The Transport Corporation has earned Rs.4.50 crore profit in 2017 and it may touch Rs.6 crore by the end of 2018-19 fiscal.

KSRTC officials said timings of these buses are fixed according to the departure and arrival time of popular flights. "As we are receiving an overwhelming response, particularly on Mysuru and Madikeri routes, we are planning to add two more services to Mysuru and expand to other places," Reddy said.

The KSRTC has also planned to operate buses between Mysuru and Kannur International Airport at Kerala which began operations recently. "We are studying the route and waiting for flight stabilisation. Presently, we are running Volvo buses on Madikeri-Makutta-Kannur Road between Mysuru and Kannur," Reddy added.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Cannibal Bees!

Bees are notorious for their stings, but humans aren't the only ones who experience this pain in the neck (or the arm, or the leg...). In protecting their hives from outsiders, some **"guard bees"** will actually stay by the entrance and sniff the bees that come in. If there's a **rogue bee** from another hive trying to steal some nectar, the guard bee will bite and even sting the intruder. The number of guard bees varies from season to season and from species to species. Entrance size and daily traffic also play an integral role in the number of guard bees present.

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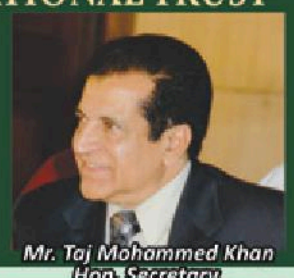
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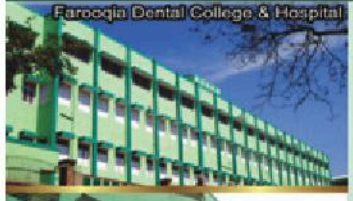
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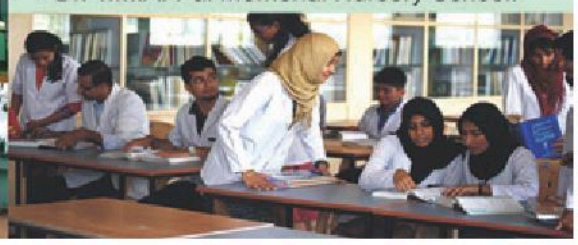

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STAR INTERVIEW

Mahatma follower at the helm of Mahajana

Journey of nonagenarian-*stithaprajna* R. Vasudeva Murthy

The span of life one enjoys is definitely not in one's hand as many leave this world for various reasons much before the ripe age on earth. However, there are a few who live a full, fruitful, meaningful life, ageing gracefully by taking everything that comes in their stride.

One such soul amidst us today is the gentle-nonagenarian-educationist R. Vasudeva Murthy, the President of Mahajana Education Society (MES). Born with a silver spoon, he has seen everything in his life and is a *Stithaprajna* (stable state of existence) in every sense.

***Star of Mysore* Features Editor N. Niranjan Nikam met Vasudeva Murthy at his daughter Vijayalakshmi's apartment in Jayalakshmipuram, where he opened up to talk freely about his parents, early years, the industries he ran, the theatre he runs, his baptism into education field and his views about life. Excerpts… —Editor**

By N. Niranjan Nikam

Star of Mysore (SOM): How do you personally look at the ninety years and still going strong life of yours?

Vasudeva Murthy: Whatever little I have attained, I don't say I have done much but the little things that I have done in these 90 years, I feel quite happy. I am also happy as far as my business and social contacts are concerned. After joining Mahajana Education Society (MES), whatever little I could do I have done for the progress of this institution which I feel good and also proud about.

SOM: Share with us something about your parents Rattehalli Ramappa and Bhagyalakshamma. How much they influenced you?

Vasudeva Murthy: My father was a principled man and that left a lasting impression on me. Actually we come from Sagar in Shivamogga District, very near to Jog, where my father and grandfather had business. He came to Mysore 70 years back. My father was doing arecanut business and then changed to dealing in rice mills. He was a very influential man because he became the Vice-President of the Municipality there. He was so influential that when the Deputy Commissioner came to Sagar, he would visit our house first. My father constructed a High School called Municipal High School and donated Rs.25,000 in those days. He was the Secretary of the School for decades.

SOM: Why did he come to Mysore?

Vasudeva Murthy: Because of my mother Bhagyalakshamma, who got operated in Bangalore and they advised her rest. He thought Mysore is a better place for rest. He came here and took a bungalow on rent which belonged to B.C. Lingaiah (former Municipal President). Since he was already in rice mill business, he bought one more rice mill here. He somehow got in contact with G.R. Ramaiah, who was owning Navajyothi Studios. He (Ramaiah) thought of having a theatre and my father became partner with Ramaiah and built Prabha Talkies in 1948. Ramaiah was in debts and my father wanted to get out of partnership. Therefore, he took Prabha Talkies with lot of debts and left Navajyothi Studios to Ramaiah. Somehow we managed to clear the debts. We were the first to manufacture *avalakki* (beaten rice) by machines. Previously we used to pound it. Somehow my father got an idea to manufacture through machines and we installed about eight to ten machines and we were manufacturing 200 bags of *avalakki* daily. The market was Mangalore because in South Canara they eat *avalakki* every day. Through that business we could clear the debt of Prabha Talkies.

After finishing my degree in Bangalore, I wanted to study further but my father didn't allow. He asked me to look after the theatre because I had done my B.Com. I was writing accounts in the theatre and since my father had bought rice mill I started looking after it also. I thought I must do something and therefore thought of installing a plant for extracting oil from rice bran, a first-of-its-kind in Karnataka.

The young R. Vasudeva Murthy** (extreme right in jubba - panche) **seen with the Maharaja of Mysore Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar during the opening of Sarvajanika Hostel in Vidyaranyapuram.

SOM: What about your association with Ambale Subramanya Iyer whose bust was also installed recently in Mahajana College?

Vasudeva Murthy: Subramanya Iyer started the institution, **Mahajana Education Society (MES),** for failed students because Government Schools were not admitting failed students. He started a school only for failed students, which of course grew. The High School was one of the best schools in the city. My father was one of the Committee Members.

SOM: How did your father come in contact with Iyer?

Vasudeva Murthy: In those days in a city like Mysore everyone knew everyone. My father was the President of Rice Mill Owners Association and he had contacts and that is how he got into MES and became the President of the Society. During his time, he started PU College where we have installed his bust and the First Grade College he started, which was inaugurated by Swami Chinmayananda.

[Continued on page 30]

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Mahatma follower at the helm of Mahajana

Vasudeva Murthy (standing second from left) ***seen with his parents and other family members.***

[Continued from page 28]

SOM: Can you recall about your time in Sagar as a child?

Vasudeva Murthy: I had the real good fortune of shaking hands with Mahatma Gandhi when he came to Jog Falls. My father was the Chairman of Reception Committee. I was still a young boy of around ten. He took me with him to meet Gandhiji. They had a reception for him when I was in the primary school. It is still green in my memory.

Later, I became a Congressman. Till independence I was purely wearing khadi, nothing else, even my bed and blanket was khadi. I used to attend Congress meetings and do *Prabhatpheri* till I was in High School. I was even jailed for two days during freedom movement. I went to attend the AICC meeting in Bombay during Quit India Movement. **Immediately after independence I quit Congress at the age of 20. Then I never ventured into politics.** At that time I was caught in the euphoria of freedom movement. I was shouting slogans and they arrested me. Because my father was very influential, the authorities did not keep me for long, they released me after two days.

When Gandhiji was assassinated on Jan. 30, 1948, which is called the *Sarvodaya Day,* from that day, I used to fast as Gandhiji had said when there was food shortage give up eating one night's dinner. But I took up fasting on Jan.30 the whole day. I was only on water; I did it for 30 years. I was the Treasurer of All India Students Congress when Ramakrishna Bajaj (Bajaj Auto), son of Jamanlal Bajaj, was the Vice-President and Ravindra Varma, a Keralite, was the President. They used to come and stay at our house in Mysore. We held a conference in Bangalore at Glass House, where J.B. Kripalani was the chief guest and the likes of Ashok Mehta, Achyut Patwardhan had all attended. I was the President of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry — second non-Bengalurean to become the President, first was B.N. Aradhya of Ragotine, again from Mysore and the third again is a Mysurean, Sudhakar S. Shetty.

Vasudeva Murthy (extreme left) ***with President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Chief Minister Devaraja Urs and Minister Gundu Rao.***

SOM: It is almost 70 years that you graduated from the University of Mysore. You are an educationist. Tell us something about it.

Vasudeva Murthy: My intention was to build up these institutions. Therefore, we started First Grade College, Law College, Post Graduate Centre and CBSE School. All these institutions were added during my time. Today, it is one of the best institutions in the city and there are more than 6,000 students. Our intention is to make this a Deemed University (for which we have already got autonomy) in another four to five years. In our management we have both academicians, industrialists and auditors. In fact, Ha. Ma. Nayak was one of our Committee Members. Former CM S.M. Krishna, former Minister B. Rachaiah, Isha Foundation's Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev are some of our illustrious alumni.

SOM: You still run the Prabha Picture House. You had set up Rice Bran Oil Extraction Plant, the second in the country. Is this unit still running?

Vasudeva Murthy: The unit is not running because I left the business and handed it over to my nephew but he did not continue. When I started rice bran oil plant, it started mushrooming everywhere and business became very competitive. Therefore, I thought of another method. I got the formula from CFTRI where I could extract oil from silk worm. All these years, silk worm was thought of as a dead worm and were burying it. Then what we did was after taking out the silk we dried the silk worm and then extracted oil from that worm because it used to contain more than 75 per cent of oil and the extracted worm used to contain more than 80 per cent of proteins. This process was being done in Japan only. This oil was used for manufacturing washing soap and the extracted material was used for manufacturing animal feed.

SOM: Among your many strengths like the enthusiasm you have, generosity you show, good rapport with society, the most important strength is the *'Positive Thinking'* ***you have. Having seen many ups and downs all these years, especially losing loved ones before you, have you been able to face these adversities because of this particular attitude?***

Vasudeva Murthy: What I feel is you have to face things as they come. But if we keep thinking about them, it is not correct; it is not positive thinking. You have to face all kinds of situations in life but you have to take it in the right spirit; whether it is adversities or good things in life. That should not be the attitude of anybody. For instance our association with Chinmaya Mission and Ramakrishna Ashrama has helped us develop that kind of an attitude.

IDEAL COUPLE: ***Vasudeva Murthy with wife Saraswathi.***

SOM: Because you lost your son, your grand-daughter and a few others...

Vasudeva Murthy: True, but we have taken it in the right spirit. We do not brood about it.

SOM: How do you feel looking back at 90 years now? Do you want to live up to 100?

Vasudeva Murthy: I am not keen on living for 100 years. Whatever I could do I have done up to my capacity but not that I have done anything great. I am quite happy with whatever I have achieved; I am not ambitious or avaricious. I will take life as it comes ▪

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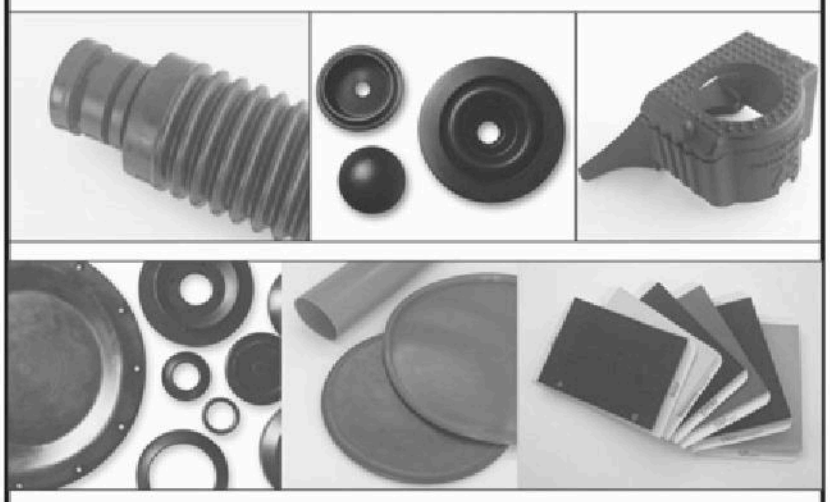

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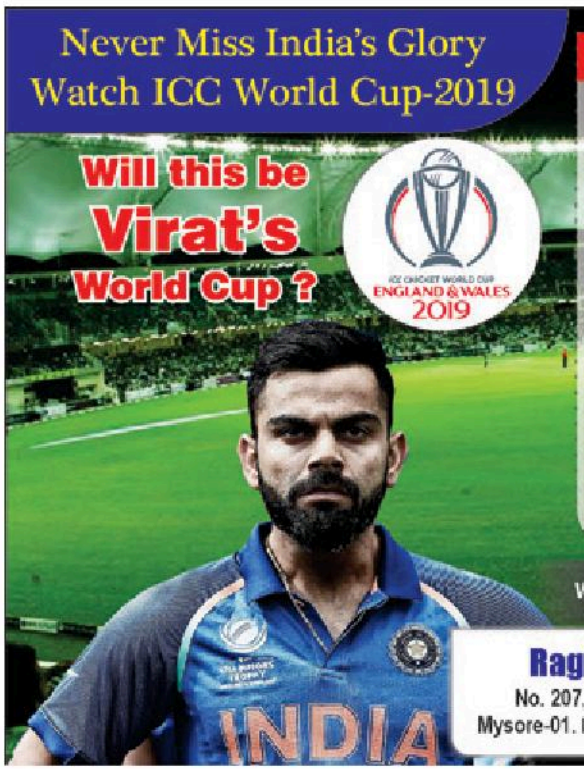

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09 June	India VS Australia	(2.30pm)
13 June	India VS NZ	(2.30pm)
16 June	Pak VS India	(2.30pm)
22 June	India VS AFG	(2.30pm)
27 June	WI VS India	(2.30pm)
30 June	England VS India	(2.30pm)
02 July	BD VS India	(2.30pm)
06 July	SL VS India	(2.30pm)
09 July	1st Semi Finals	(2.30pm)
11 July	2nd Semi Finals	(2.30pm)
14 July	Final	(2.30pm)

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From Beauty to Baking

"In 1975, as a newly-married bride when I migrated to India from Malaysia, out of hundreds of gifts which I had received from friends and relatives, I had brought only a single gift with me — and it was an OVEN, which I still have with me. My husband laughed. What are you going to do with this? Do you even know how to bake?"

By Sujata Rajpal

I could only smile at that. I have inherited my passion for baking from my mother. I started baking for the pure fun of it. Choosing a design, the shape, deciding the right ingredients, watching the cake rise, decorating it..., I love every bit of it. The first recognition for my baking skills came when for my son's first birthday, I baked a cake in the shape of a fort. The guests appreciated it a lot and I started baking for friends and relatives. I never charged them, it was for my own happiness. Little did I realise that I was actually taking baby steps towards a rewarding career? Not career, but careers," the beautician-turned-baker **Zerina Imthiaz** corrects herself.

Sujata Rajpal

When the budding baker was ready to take orders, she approached *Kings Kourt Hotel* as she wanted to open a cake shop.

"Bakery will not run in Mysore, start a beauty salon instead," **L. Vivekananda,** the owner of *Kings Kourt* advised.

"Beauty salon ! I know nothing about it..." I turned towards my husband **Imthiaz,** who has stood behind me like a rock all through my journey.

"So learn it," he said coolly.

Not to waste any time, Zerina left for Malaysia and returned after three months. Armed with beauty training from a reputed trainer and the fire in her belly, **Classic Beauty Parlour** was started in 1980 in the premises of *Kings Kourt*. The name was also suggested by Vivekananda who is responsible for steering me towards being a beauty therapist. It functioned from the premises of *Kings Kourt* for 14 years before it was shifted to Yadavagiri, near Akashvani Circle. Classic Beauty Parlour *(now closed)* was one of the first few parlours in Mysore.

It must be a real challenge to open a beauty salon in Mysore in 1980, I ask.

Zerina thinks for a moment before answering, "Though I started the salon with a lot of enthusiasm, the initial response was anything but encouraging. Initially only a few women walked in for eyebrows, hair trimming and other small jobs with clear instructions to me that it should not make any difference to their looks lest the mother or the mother-in-law comes to know about the visit to a beauty parlour. Those times were different. Now every age, every occasion calls for a quick visit to the beauty parlour."

I can't conceal a smile. It is obviously good for your business. Isn't it?

"No, it is not good for me," says the gritty woman, her voice firm. **"I am against very young boys and girls going in for all sorts of beauty treatments. I used to blatantly refuse kids who would come to me to get their hair coloured, face bleached and other treatments involving chemicals."**

The obsession with looking good is nothing but our obsession with social media. We want to look nice because people are going to see the pictures. You are not good if you are not picture-worthy. As an afterthought she adds, "Beauty products (of course, not for young children) are also necessary to some extent due to change in environment and increase in stress levels. Our mothers never needed a facial or a sun screen lotion because they stayed indoors most of the day, did physical work which gave them a natural glow due to increase in blood circulation but nowadays women go out in the hot sun; dust and grime make it essential for them to use good beauty products. My beauty business helped me meet so many people and I also learnt Kannada."

The market is full of high quality beauty products but there is no comparison to home-made products. They are still the best, believes the woman who was instrumental in starting **Mysore District Beautician and Beauty Parlour Owners Association (MDBBPOA).**

MDBBPOA is aimed at bringing all beauty parlours under a single umbrella. The objective is to educate the beauticians in the latest beauty treatments and theories. It not only serves as a platform to address common challenges but a great learning and bonding medium too. In spite of competing against each other, we are aware of the power of unity. Zerina, who has been the President of MDBBPOA for 15 years, is now an Honorary Advisor to the Association. "It feels good when beauticians still come to me for advice," she beams.

"And it gives me immense happiness when women who attended my beauty classes open their own salons. Seeing women doing well for themselves both financially and emotionally gives me the biggest high. The future belongs to women," adds Zerina, her big eyes glowing with genuine joy.

"As an advocate for women empowerment, I hire only women. My husband who helps me in the restaurant is the only male here," she chuckles. One of her employees has been working for her since 25 years and another for 17 years.

Zerina ran her parlour for 35 years before calling it a day. Classic Beauty Parlour was closed three years ago. "I couldn't pay attention to both the businesses. My cake shop *Toot - C* was doing very well. So I had to choose between the two. *Toot-C* was started second but it was my first love. Though I am both a trained beautician and a trained baker, I would like to call myself a baker if I have to choose only one."

[Continued on page 33]

Sheila Irani inaugurating Classic Beauty Parlour at** Kings Kourt **as Zerina looks on.

'Baking continues to be my passion'

[Continued from page 32]

Until a few years ago, Zerina Imthiaz was running two businesses simultaneously. How did you manage to run both the businesses together, that too successfully? I shoot my next question.

"Even though footfalls at parlour had picked up, my obsession with starting my own cake shop continued. In 1988, eight years after I ventured into beauty business, *Toot-C* was started in Yadavagiri (near Akashvani). It was not just a cake shop but a small restaurant. It had fast food including burgers, Chinese and cakes," she said.

"Baking continues to be my passion. Even today I am still hands-on. I am involved in designing, baking, presentation and everything else that it takes to bake a cake. The advancement in technology has made it easier for professionals like us to travel and yet stay connected to day-to-day business challenges," says the baker as she shows me the pictures of cakes sent by her staff on *WhatsApp*.

"People in Mysuru don't want to try new flavours. Black forest is still the most popular. We use natural products as far as possible," she adds.

Talking about growing demand for bakery products, Zerina says, these days there are a lot of home-grown bakers, housewives who either self-train themselves or learn it professionally, start as a cottage industry. They are very talented and quickly pick up the market skills which are essential for any business.

A phone call interrupts our conversation... "See I am going back to where I started," says Zerina when the call by her only son Vazeeq Madhar, who works in Bermuda, ends..

"I started *Toot-C* with bakery items, fast food and Chinese but later when my Chinese cook left, I closed everything else and retained only the cakes and pastries. Today the cook has come back and I am opening a full-fledged restaurant." *Toot-C* is now situated bang opposite Nirmala Convent (Gokulam-VV Mohalla junction). ■

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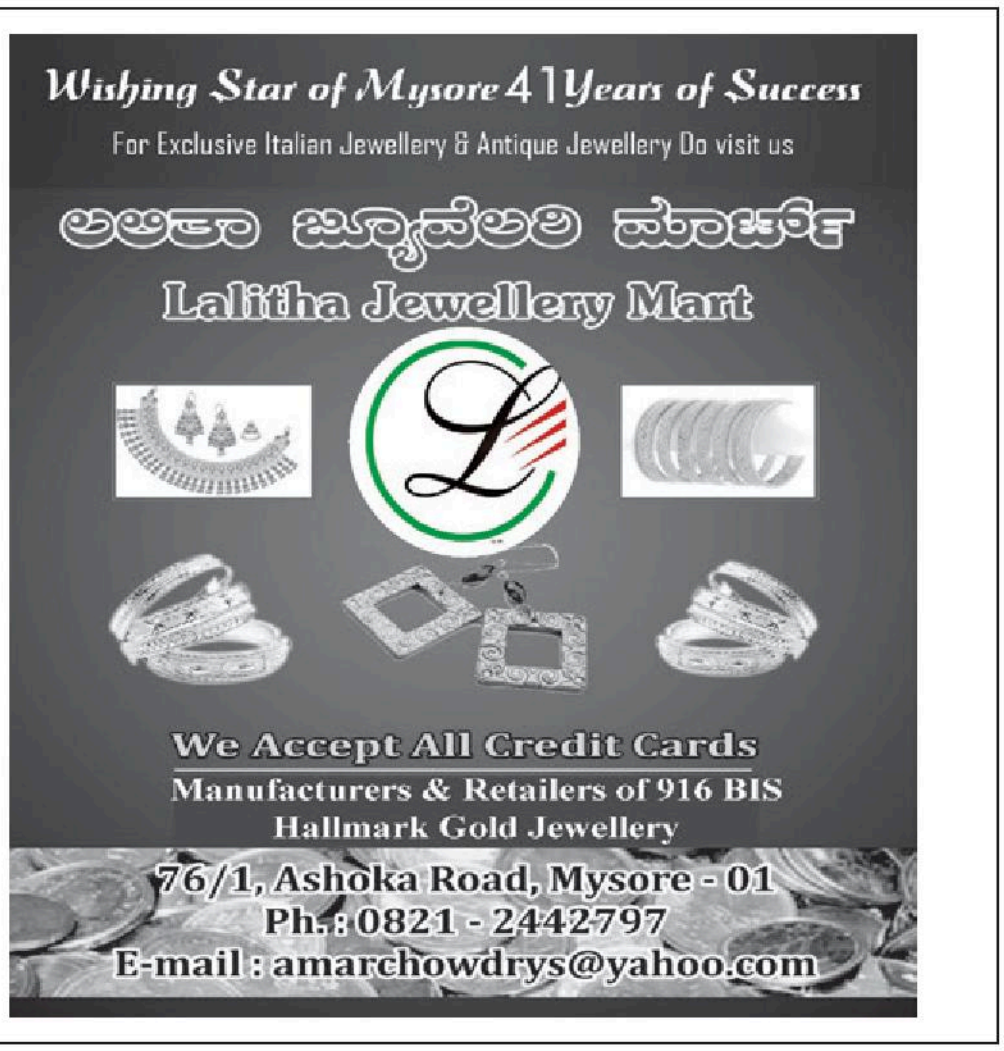
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Inspired by Africa...

City Artist Explores Zulu Art

Artist M.S. Prashanth at his stall during an exhibition in city recently.

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

The world is full of amazing artists and this is true not only of individual artists but also people belonging to a community, race or region. India itself is home to some of the finest traditional painters, craftsmen and performers. The other continent that attracts attention when it comes to tradition, art and culture is Africa.

Exploring the art forms of Masai Mara or Zulu Art is Mysuru's own artist, **M.S. Prashanth,** a resident of Saraswathipuram, 7th Main, 3rd Cross, who has been painting this art form since the past 20 years. He has concentrated mainly on the daily lifestyle of African tribes and won the admiration of art connoisseurs.

The Maasai (Masai) people are more commonly associated with Kenya but they have been a presence around the Ngorongoro Crater of Tanzania for over 150 years and are the area's main residents. They are predominantly a warrior tribe whose lives revolve around herding cattle.

When compared to other art forms, those involved in Zulu are very less. Using black, light red, orange and a few other colours, Prashanth creates eye-catching paintings and these are available at affordable rates, unlike many paintings that are beyond the reach of common man.

Prashanth has exhibited and sold his works at Bahuroopi National Theatre Festival organised by Rangayana for the past 13 years. He has also held exhibitions in Bengaluru's *Chitra Santhe* and other exhibitions in Chennai and New Delhi. Another organisation where he repeatedly participates at the State-level is the one organised by Gandhi Shilp Bazaar.

He has sold thousands of paintings so far to art-lovers from India and abroad. Prashanth's artfully done Masai Mara paintings have adorned the walls of many offices, hotels and homes.

AFFORDABLE PRICE

It is very difficult to value paintings as many of them are priceless. There was a time of course when some of the finest painters in the world led a life of penury and even died in abject poverty. But years or centuries later, their paintings acquire value and are sold or auctioned for astronomical sums. One such painter that comes to mind is Vincent Van Gogh, who was one of the most influential and famous figures in Western art.

Fortunately, things have changed and artists and painters do get their due in their lifetime itself like for instance Raja Ravi Varma, who was a painter in the Mysore Palace and the barefoot painter M.F. Husain. Hence, many would pay fancy figures to possess a Husain or Vincent Van Gogh paintings.

But Prashanth has made up his mind that his paintings on Zulu Art would be affordable for anyone who is interested in art. A 1 ft X 2 ft or 4 ft X 2 ft art work starts from Rs. 600 per piece and goes up to Rs. 6,000.

As his art works are affordable, the number of people who are interested in this unique art which Prashanth specialises in, has a lot of takers as they are framed in black with the colourfully attired women and men sporting headgears, traditional weapons that attracts everyone's attention and carries its own stamp.

[Continued on page 35]

[Continued from page 34]

"I have been doing this Masai Mara (Zulu) painting since the last 20 years. Earlier, I was doing different type of paintings and slowly chose this form as I was attracted to the dresses and life-style of the Masai Mara tribe," Prashanth says.

"I learnt this art from senior artist Syed Mustafa Ali. Later, to further improve myself, I got in touch with international artist Canine Edward Waldo, who introduced me to the African theme. Then I learnt the background art work from leading artist M.G. Doddamani," he adds.

On his art, he says, "At the last *Chitra Santhe* organised in Bengaluru by Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath there were more than 1,250 artists but there was not a single painting in Masai Mara style. At an exhibition in Chennai, Sri Lankan Sports Minister's wife bought 30 of my paintings. I did not know her at all but later Sri Lankan Embassy people came and collected a few more of my paintings. This is an unforgettable moment in my life," he says proudly.

"Masai Mara art is not difficult and anyone can learn it. I use the brush which I brought from Germany and hence, mixing of paints become easy and the paintings come out beautifully too," he quips.

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The Three Germans in Coorg

By C.P. Belliappa

It was in 1836 that twenty-five-year-old **Rev. Hermann Moegling,** a German missionary from the Basel Mission, arrived in Mangalore. Christianity was already popular on the west coast of India. He founded the **Basel Evangelical Mission Seminary,** which became a hub of learning of not only religion but also Indian languages and culture.

Moegling, a linguist, was fluent in English, Sanskrit and Persian, besides his native German. He started learning Kannada and soon became proficient in the language. The credit for starting the first newspaper in Kannada *"Mangaluru Samachara"* goes to Rev. Moegling. The maiden issue of this newspaper was brought out on 1st July 1843. This eventful day is still being aptly celebrated as **'Kannada Press Day.'** Rev. Moegling went on to translate several Kannada classics to German and vice-versa. Basel Evangelical Mission Seminary started by him in Mangalore continues under the new name **Karnataka Theological College.** Rev. Moegling laid the foundation for Mangalore becoming a centre for education.

In 1852, Rev. Moegling was preparing to leave for Germany for medical treatment when he had an unexpected visitor from Coorg — a man named **Alamanda Somayya.** The tall, impressive looking man was dressed as a *sanyasi*. He requested Rev. Moegling to accept him into the Christian fold. He offered his land in Coorg for construction of a church. Rev. Moegling was quite taken up with Somayya's resolve.

Believing this to be a divine intervention, Rev. Moegling cancelled his trip. He moved to Coorg in 1853 along with his wife and adopted spiritual son **Rev. Anandarao Kaundinya.** Alamanda Somayya was baptised on 6th January 1853 and was christened **Stephanas Somayya.** Rev. Moegling built a house and a modest church on Somayya's land in Armeri village.

Lt. Col. Mark Cubbon was the Chief Commissioner of Coorg at the time, and he encouraged Rev. Moegling to establish the first Protestant church and a school in Madikeri in 1855. Another notable personality in the field of education in Coorg was **Rev. Georg Richter,** also from the Basel Mission in Germany. He was brought to Coorg by Rev. Moegling in April 1856 and was given charge of running the school. Rev. Richter spent most of his life in promoting education in Coorg and was the first Principal of Central School in Madikeri, which was started in 1869. He later took charge as Inspector of Schools. His book, *"Gazetteer of Coorg"* published in 1870 is a comprehensive recording of social, cultural, historical and geographical aspects of Coorg. Rev. Richter's wife, Armella, taught needlework to Coorg girls.

In a recent book by Albert Frenz (Stuttgart), titled *"Georg Richter: His Work in Kodagu on the Basis of Official Reports"* gives us an insight into Rev. Richter's journey to India, and how he landed in Coorg and spent 38 years here except for an 18-month furlough in Germany.

Rev. Moegling

G. Richter

Ferdinand Kittel

The British administration granted 97 acres of land in Siddapur to Rev. Moegling to establish a church and to support a Christian settlement with a coffee estate. The work on this ambitious project started in 1857. Even though Rev. Moegling had his hands full with preaching the Gospel and opening the coffee plantation, he found time to author two books on Coorg. One in German, *"Das Kurgland"* details his evangelical work in Coorg. The other, written in English, titled *"Coorg Memoirs"* is one of the first in-depth study of history of Coorg.

Gabriel & Hanna Alamanda

Rev. Anandarao Kaundinya ably assisted his mentor. The new settlement was named Anandapura or 'region of happiness.' Rev. Moegling found Coorg to be an ideal place to live and called it his second country. In 1860, Rev. Moegling left for Germany to be with his ailing wife. He himself was in poor health. To his great disappointment, his illness did not permit him to return to Coorg. He died in 1881.

The work at Anandapura continued under Rev. Moegling's disciple and another fellow German missionary **Rev. Ferdinand Kittel.** An Indologist and a polyglot, Rev. Kittel first came to India in 1853 and in time became a renowned scholar in Kannada. He too translated some of Kannada classics to German and wrote several books and poems in Kannada.

His most famous work is the first Kannada-English dictionary consisting of 70,000 words which he painstakingly compiled and published in 1894. It was while in Coorg that he started perfecting his proficiency in Kannada. He continued Rev. Moegling's initiative in the field of education. Rev. Kittel also wrote a book on Kannada grammar. He was a regular contributor to *Mangaluru Samachara*. His work took him, besides Mangalore, to Dharwad as well. In recognition of his contribution to Kannada, an impressive statue of Rev. Kittel stands prominently on M.G. Road, Bangalore. Further, a Kittel Science College and a Kittel Arts College, have been established in Dharwad. There is talk of starting a University in Rev. Kittel's name. That would be a fitting tribute to this great champion of Kannada.

One of the major hurdles faced at the Anandapura settlement was malaria, which the Europeans referred to as the 'Coorg Fever.' There were many deaths and gradually this scourge affected the project adversely. Anandapura coffee estate was subsequently taken-over by British planters who had shifted to Coorg from Sri Lanka. The coffee estate grew in extent and is now a part of Tata Coffee Limited. It still retains the name: Anandapura Estate.

These three Germans were pioneers in promoting education in Coorg. However, their hope of making Kodavas embrace Christianity did not find favour beyond Somayya and his family. Reproduced is a rare photograph of Alamanda Somayya's son Gabriel and daughter Hanna, taken by Rev. Richter in 1862.

About the author: *C. P. Belliappa, born in 1946, is a Chemical Engineer. He is currently settled in Coorg. He is known for his writings on issues pertaining to Coorg. Four of his books — Tale of A Tiger's Tail & other Yarns from Coorg, Nuggets from Coorg History, Victoria Gowramma: The Lost Princess of Coorg, and Tongue of the Slip, have been published by Rupa Publications. He currently serves as President, Coorg Institute of Technology, Ponnampet, South Kodagu.*

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Over 200 years old & still ringing...

The bells of Abbe Dubois and St. Bartholomew's Church

Abbe Dubois Church Bell

By S. Kenneth Shishir

Bells are some of the oldest musical instruments in the world and said to date back to China in around 3,500 BC. Bells are certainly the loudest musical instruments and can be heard from many miles away over land or sea.

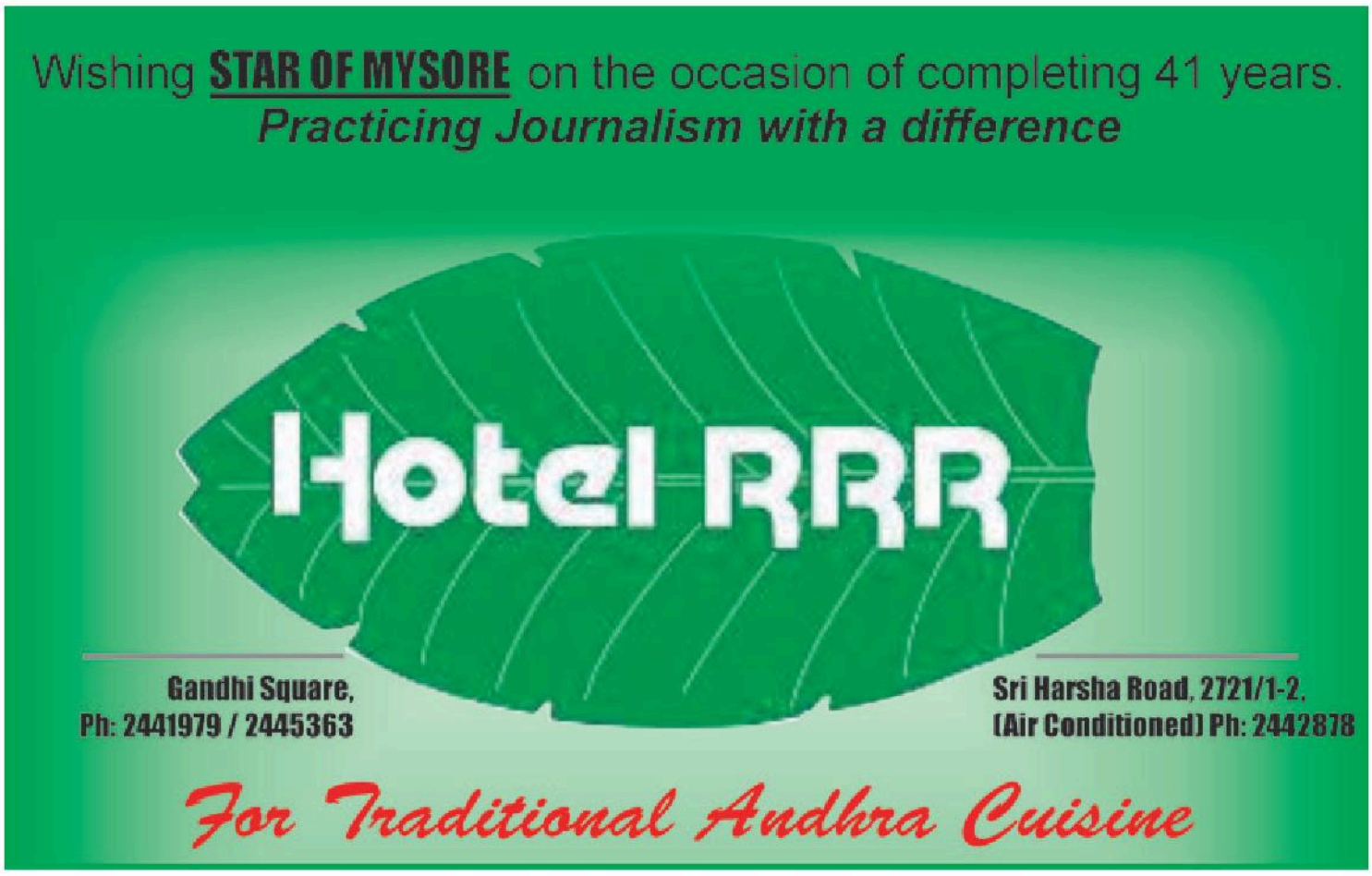
The tradition of ringing Church bells dates back to 400 AD when Paulinus of Nola first introduced bells in association with a Church. The primary purpose of ringing Church bells today is to signify the time for worshippers to gather for a Church service — this tradition is prevalent in the Anglican and Catholic Churches across the world.

Church bells installed inside Bell Towers of Churches play a significant role in engaging communities for religious and spiritual services. The sound and ringing of the bells have a spiritual value attached to them.

Bells are also used to announce weddings or funerals. The 'death knell toll' is much slower than normal ringing and the age of the deceased is tolled out. For example, if the age of the dead person was 65, the bell would toll 65 times with a pause between two rings. At a wedding, the manner of ringing is always vigorous and lively. Many Churches came up during the early years of colonial era in Karnataka like elsewhere in India. Each of these Churches has a story to tell, so also the Church bells installed there.

Among the Churches, the **Abbe Dubois Church** (Immaculate Conception Church) also known as **Amalodbhava Matheya Devalaya** at Ganjam in Srirangapatna built in 1800 and the **CSI St. Bartholomew's Church** in Mysuru, built in 1830 and their bells installed in the bell towers have tales to tell as they have a French connection. The Church bells today stand as testimony to the religious and spiritual bond between India and European countries.

[Continued on page 43]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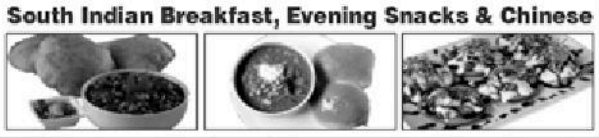

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A MODI-fied Tea Stall

Free CHAI for farmers and auto drivers who visit before 8 am

By B.C. Thimmaiah

If the tea stall in Gujarat's Vadnagar where Prime Minister Narendra Modi once sold tea during his childhood has been converted into a tourist spot, here in Mysuru we have a tea stall that is dedicated to Modi and just by seeing the "Modi Tea Stall" board placed prominently outside the shop, people come here to have a sip of piping hot tea sometimes accompanied by buns and biscuits.

The stall is located on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway near Siddalingapura. One cannot miss this tea shop on the road as it has bright coloured boards with PM Modi's photographs and bold writing. One plain look at the outlet may seem like a BJP pit stop. A closer look reveals that it is a tea stall.

As one enters the stall, bright boards greet the visitor with slogans like *My PM, My Pride; Swadeshi Balasi, Desha Ulisi...* Beside the stall there are small tables and seats made up of coconut tree stumps painted green and white. There is a dedicated place for customers to dump tea cups instead of indiscriminately throwing them. This is in-line with the *Swachh Bharat* theme, Modi's pet project.

[Continued on page 44]

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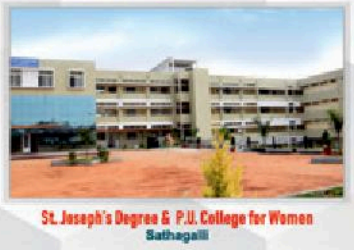
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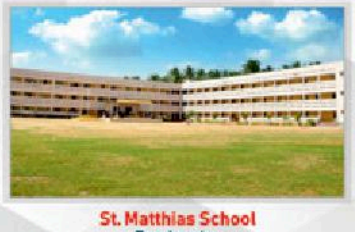
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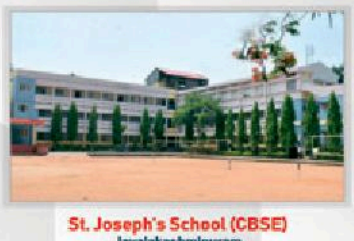
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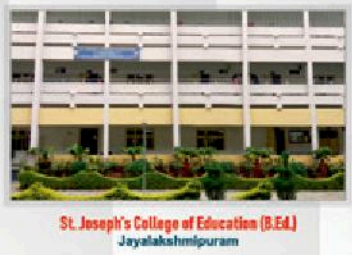
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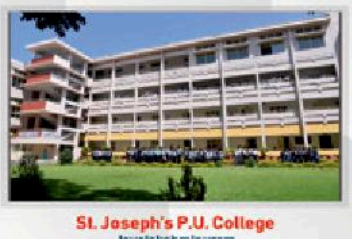
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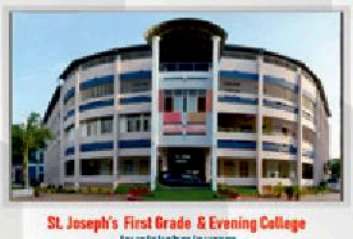
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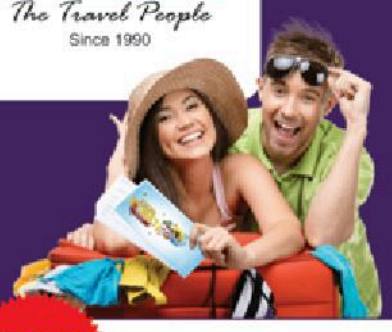

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CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO STAR OF MYSORE ON THE OCCASION OF 42ND ANNIVERSARY

A Glimpse of the Geisha World

By Girija Madhavan

Images of Mount Fuji, cherry blossoms, bullet trains or electronic devices come to mind when thinking of Japan. Less familiar is another Japanese icon: the Geisha in a kimono, with traditional hairdo, white makeup, scarlet lipstick and an aura of mystery and allure.

In Japanese, the word *"Gei"* stands for art and *"sha"* for performer. A geisha is a woman over the age of 22, trained in music, dancing, the social graces of making conversation and being a hostess at parties. They can still be seen in the "tea house districts" of big cities, especially in Kyoto.

A "Maiko" is an apprentice geisha *["Mai"* being dance and *"Ko"* a child], training and learning from her seniors at work. A maiko is distinguished from a geisha by her more colourful kimonos, hairdos embellished with ornaments, long sleeves and panels hanging from the *"Obi"* [sash] at the back. I was told that the older a geisha is, the more fascinating she is thought to be and so needs less adornment. Geisha and maiko regard themselves as exponents of the arts of their country. They perform to select audiences in tea houses or entertain at parties, where they talk to guests, refill "sake" glasses, dance or give music recitals, singing or playing the Shamisen, a three stringed instrument. These sessions are expensive. A geisha is also known as "geiko" or "Woman of Art." They can marry but have to quit their profession if they do.

Earlier only men were employed in this service. Women took to this form later, being recognised as professionals by the 18th century. From a great number in the 1920s, they are now said to have dwindled to about a hundred maiko and 200 geisha. Post-war Japan promulgated rules to ensure their rights to education and stopped the old practice of selling young girls into the business. Geishas aver that they are not sex workers but exponents of art.

Japan, from ancient times, has had a tradition of literary and intellectual excellence in women. Lady Murasaki, a lady-in-waiting at the Imperial Court of the Heian period [around 1000] wrote *"The Tale of Genji."* Her contemporary, Sei Shonagon, a lady at the Court of Empress Teishi, authored the *"Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon,"* a detailed and witty account of life in the Imperial Court of that time, readable even now. Maybe this is why the knowledge of poetry and literature and the ability to sustain good talk, is valued in a geisha too.

The Madhavans meet an elegant geisha.

The first film about geishas was a silent one, titled *"The House of Geisha"* produced in May 1914. This theme gained interest when Steven Spielberg and Douglas Wick produced the film *"Memoirs of a Geisha"* in 2005, based on Arthur Golden's novel of the same title written in 1997. The setting was in pre-war Japan and was well-received abroad. It created controversy in Japan as not being a factual portrayal of the culture.

The day for a geisha or maiko starts with elaborate make-up and hair-styling. Both have a stark white foundation on the face, some red around the eyelids, darkened brows and eyes and scarlet lipstick, the neck and nape being white as well. Their intricate hair-styles are sometimes dressed by professionals. Earlier, wooden slats on frames were used to rest the neck when sleeping so that the hair was not rumpled. Nowadays traditionally styled wigs are used to lessen the strain on the artists' hair.

In the late 1980s, when my husband was the Indian Ambassador in Tokyo, we were both invited to a dinner along with other foreign guests. To my delight, some exquisitely dressed geishas were also present. At dinner an elderly geisha sat with me and my neighbour, an American who was on his first visit to the country. The starters were served on separate plates, finely garnished, a delight to eye and palate, to be eaten with chopsticks. My neighbour seemed unused to both the food and the use of chopsticks. Our geisha companion filled sake glasses and made small talk.

Finally, the main course arrived on ceramic plates with a hand painted design suggesting flowing water. In the centre of the dish was a grilled fish fillet surrounded by vegetables. On the border of the platter were decorative leaves, and a real blue flower, resting on some oval objects to evoke a river bank effect.

Afraid to tackle the fish or the slippery greens, my neighbour put aside his chopsticks and tried to pick up with his fingers the small spheres on his plate. The geisha almost lost her poise at this point; instead, picking up his chopsticks, she deposited the little objects on the tablecloth with a smiling "Sumimasen!" or "excuse me." She gently explained that they were small stones that the chef had used to create an artistic landscape arrangement, "bad for teeth, not to eat."

This was my only interaction with a geisha. I came away filled with admiration for their sartorial elegance, their bearing, grace, poise and sensitivity.

Madhavans at the party.

[Pic. Courtesy: Internet]

Maiko, apprentice geisha.

...and still ringing

[Continued from page 38]

Abbe Dubois Church: Just 2 kms from Srirangapatna is a quiet town called Ganjam, a prosperous city during the rule of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Ganjam is better known for its most visited Gumbaz, the famous Nimishamba Temple and the Abbe Dubois Church built by Rev. Fr. Abbe Dubois in 1800 AD.

Now, **Rev. Fr. Paulus Thomas is the Parish Priest.** As one enters the gates of Abbe Dubois Church, an eye-catching bell tower about 15 ft. tall greets at the entrance. It is dedicated to Mother Mary. Adjacent to the bell tower is a small house which is believed to be the dwelling place of Rev. Fr. Abbe Dubois who is also the founder of a school for the children of Ganjam. The house is now the residential quarters of the Parish Priest.During his tenure, Rev. Dubois built this campanile. The 218-year-old bell weighs over 200 kgs and has been cast with alloy by the French.

Bell Tower

St. Bartholomew's Church was built in memory of Saint Bartholomew, one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ at the land gifted by Krishnaraja Wadiyar III. According to **Rev. Daniel Kaundinya, Presbyter,** the Church Bell which is still in service was at the French Army Base Church at French Rocks (now Pandavapura), about 25 kms from Mysuru. This Bell, made of gunmetal, was cast in France during the middle of 17th Century and was at the service of the French Army Base Church till the Church was dismantled. After that, its functional bell, weighing more than 225 kgs, was gifted to St. Bartholomew's Church, which is now installed in the new Bell Tower and the bell rings during service every Sunday, he added. According to inscription on the bell tower, *"...In 1799, the British army defeated Tipu and his ally the French army. In 1924, French Rocks Church land was taken to build the Irwin Canal (now Visvesvaraya Canal) and the dismantled material from the French Church was gifted by the British army to the then Chaplain Rev. G.A.A. Wright of this Church."*

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A MODI-fied Tea Stall

Shivu at his tea stall near Siddalingapura.

[Continued from page 40]

The stall is owned by M. Shankaralingegowda alias Shivu who comes from a farming community. He is a Gram Panchayat member and interestingly, he is not from BJP but a hard-core Modi fan. Rain or shine, Shivu opens the stall at 5 am and has been doing this since the last nine years. Inspired by the work done by Narendra Modi, he named his humble outlet after Modi four years back.

He gives free tea to farmers and auto drivers who come to his shop by 8 am and this has helped him earn the love and respect from villagers. "PM Modi's journey from a humble Chaiwala to one of the most powerful world leaders is definitely an inspiration. I value his selfless sacrifice and unlike other party leaders, he is neither from a dynasty nor is he amassing wealth for future generations of his family," Shivu claims.

So why a tea shop? Shivu says that he has passed his SSLC and was yet to complete his PUC. "I wanted to be independent since the beginning and I set up this tea stall. The land behind the shop is owned by my family and I manage to save Rs.1,000 every day after deducting all my expenses and shop expenditure," he says.

Insist on his political affiliations, Shivu says, during the last Assembly elections, he worked for Siddharamaiah, though he lost to G.T. Devegowda in Chamundeshwari Constituency. "Many people come to my stall seeing the board and many vehicles take a U-Turn and come to my shop to have tea," he says with a smile.

Shivu has his future set. As his family owns land behind the shop, he says after the ongoing expansion of the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway, he will set up a canteen for poor. "It will be on the lines of Indira Canteens where cheap and good food is offered. But it will be my own, without any government support," he says.

After all, Modi is not working for the welfare of his family but he is working for the country without any selfish motives, Shivu adds.

Modi Tea Stall on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway.

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Mission Hospital renovated with new front uplift of Casualty, Main Gate, interlocking favor blocks, landscaping and building painting gives new look for the heritage building which resembles Palace which is possible after 113 years by the new administration took over in July 2017.

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	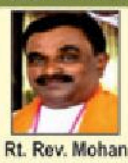	
Dr. J. Sugunashanthi (OBG)	Rt. Rev. Mohan Manoraj	Mr. Vincent Palanna

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sitting (from left) : Rev. Gilbert Devaprasad, Mrs. Sheela Thomas, Mrs. Sangeetha Lakkundi, Dr. J. Suguna Shanthi, Mr. William Carey, Bishop Rt. Rev. Mohan Manoraj, Mr. Vincent Palanna, Rev. Sr. Sujatha, Rev. Gurushanth, Rev. Grateful Jayashekher, Rev. Anupama Krupa.
Standing (from left) : Mr. David Manohar, Mr. Gilbert Devapasad, Mr Samuel J, Mr. Mohammed Minhaj, Dr. Reuben Prakash J, Mr. Guruprasad, Dr. Harikrishna, Mrs. Vinolia Raj V.

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HISTORY OF MISSION HOSPITAL - 113 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rajkumari (Princess) Sri Gayathri Devi opening the Children's Hospital

Article prepared by
Miss. J Sumathi
Biomedical Engineer HMH

MARY HOLDSWORTH

1906:

CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital, well known as `Mission Hospital' wasestablished in 1906. Rev. George Sawday, Superintendent Minister tookup the project in memory of Mary Calvert Holdsworth as she diedshortly after initiating the fund raising .His Highness, the Maharaja of Mysore, offered to donate a plot of land in an auspicious situation, but Rev GeorgeSawdayinstead requested a site in a poor crowded part of the city. In 1904, June 3rdMrs. James Calvert, sister of George Sawday, laid the Foundation Stone. The Government gave a grant of Rs25, 000 and the Dowager Maharani gaveRs10, 000.In 1906, the hospital building was completed and on August 21sThe Maharaja officially opened it. Till 1922, all treatment had been free andthe hospital depended for its income largely on gifts from patients and supportersin India and abroad. Following the war, prices went up and it became necessary tocharge fees to those patients who could afford to pay, according to their financialsituation. Assistance from abroad in the form of funds or grants to run the hospitalhave been stopped from over last 40 years. Income generated from the patients goesback into running the hospital.

In the earlier years from 1904 to1934 a very great debt was owed to The Rev.GeorgeSawday for his vision and foresight in fund raising and in the planning and development of the hospital. Over the years from 1931 to 1956 a similar debt was owed to Dr Grace Gillespie, who joined the hospital staff in 1931, for her great organizational skill and vision. In addition to her administrative work, she built up a wide reputation for the medical and surgical work of the hospital. This was recognized in 1949 by the award of the MBE, a well-deserved honour. After her retirement, the administration was then ably taken up by the first Indian Medical Superintendent, Dr Angeline Stephen, who was also known for her surgery and obstetric skills. She retired in 1966, when Dr Geoffrey Bird, a Surgeon from Australia arrived. From 1966 to 1967, Dr. Tovey acted as Superintendent and during this time received the award of the OBE, which they felt was an honour to be shared by the whole hospital. He retired to the UK in 1967, when Dr John Iswariah returned from further surgical training in the USA to take on the post of Superintendent.

The corresponding room in the 1950's

Dr Gillesple welcomes His Highness & the Maharajkumari

The Hospital Dhobi

Development of village work

Subsequently, the hospital became involved in a survey of leprosy, organised by Mrs. Tovey, in the Chamarajanagar District and conducted by a team based at the small hospital in Kastur run by Dr.Devadas. This survey was followed by the setting-up of four treatment centres based on the clinic at Mangala and supervised byMrs.Tovey who was already known in the Mangala and Kastur area as, prior to this time, it had been devastated by famine due to a five-year failure of monsoons. Mrs.Tovey had organised a famine relief programme for the distribution of food, and this was followed by the introduction of various cottage industries, such as sericulture, aimed at making the villagers more self-dependent. After 1966 this work was expanded under the direction of Mrs. Kay Webb, who took up residence in Mangala, where she established a general medical clinic as well as continuing with the leprosy work.The performance of Mangala Hospital has also continued to show good progress with one regular Doctor, Dr. Manoj Kumar from Vellore.Mrs.Kay Webb-1966

Dr. Tovey's Family

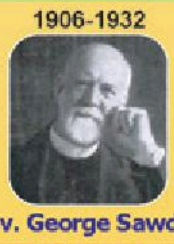
Dr. Frank Tovey served as a Surgeon from 1951 to 1967

The Rev. D.H. Mesan makes his statement

Dr.Subbaiah,
(Brother of K.B. Ganapathy)
was Consultant Physician from 1960s to 1980s

Former Directors of HMH

1906-1932

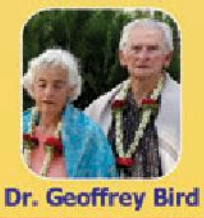


Rev. George Sawday

1949-1966

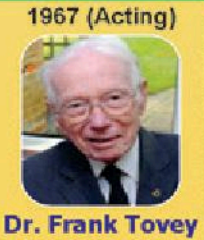
Dr. Angeline Stephen

1966-1967



Dr. Geoffrey Bird

1967 (Acting)



Dr. Frank Tovey

1968-1985

Dr. Iswariah

1986-2001

Dr. B.D.R.Paul

2008-2010 (ACTING)

Dr. Reuben Prakash .J

2001-2017

Dr..S C Karat

Operation Theatre in 1926

Operation Theatre in 2018

Advt

PRESENT DIRECTOR OF HMH– 2017

Subsequent years have shown many changes. The hospital is now entirely staffed by Indian personnel. It has had to grow in financial independence and to face the increasing costs of providing medical care and adequate staffing. There has been a great increase in departmentalization, with the introduction of new specialties and techniques, in accordance with modern developments in medicine. The growth of numerous private hospitals in the city has led to competition and an increase in financial pressures. Despite all this, it continues to be a place to which patients can come to find a spirit of loving care and concern, and an expression of God`s love as shown in Jesus Christ, in keeping with the name "Karuna Shale" (Home of Compassion).The Hospital has on its roles about 100 doctors – full time and visiting, 200 trained nurses, staff in the support areas like pharmacy, lab, radiology, Accident & Emergency, Medical Records, computer (Hospital Information System) Section, Accounts and Administration besides those who do the daily chores of cleaning the hospital and keeping the campus clean.

The hospital has been recognized as a leading service provider in providing acute care in neonatalogy, cardiology, OBG,surgery, paediatrics, accident and trauma through its well-equipped and staffed intensive care units in each of the above fields. The Nephrology unit provides Hemodialysis services round the clock. The hospital has been recognised by various Central and State government, private bodies for giving health care to their workers. The hospital belongs to the Church of South India and is responsible to the CSI Synod, Madras. The Board of Management, which meets twice a year, lays down the principles for management on a yearly basis.

Financial Management: The hospital is a self - supporting, self - reliant institution and is totally managed indigenously. The hospital runs on a no-profit-no-loss basis, as the hospitals' aim is to provide high quality service to a largely poorer section of the community. Being a charitable hospital the institution accepts donations in the form of equipment and all donations in cash are exempted from income tax under Sec. 80G and Sec. 17(2)(ii)(b)

Dr.J SUGUNA SHANTHI

CHAPEL:

1936-Hospital Chapel

It was built in 1921 and enlarged in 1949 and 1955. Each day`s work started there with morning prayers for the doctors and nurses at 7.15 am. It is by God's grace that we have completed 113 yrs. yet another year and we have stepped into 2019. We thank the Lord and all the people who have supported the Hospital in various ways.

The Hospital catered nearly 80,000 out patients & 9,000 in patients last year. The support services viz of Lab, Medical records, Radiology, Pharmacy offer 24 hours services to the clinical departments.

2018-Hospital Chapel

Training Programmes: in GNM,BSC,PB BSc and MSC Nursing, Medical Records, Laboratory & Post Graduate Doctors training (DNB) continues.Works done in 2017 - 2018: Maintenance of Building:Top roof cleaning with laying of App membrane sheet 4 mm sheet thickness, coating all over with one coat chemical coating for children's ward, labour room, Labour ward, ICCU, Tovey ward has been completed. Weather coat painting of the main building of Hospital has been completed. 50% of the painting of Hospital quarters has been completed.Paver pathways for the main Hospital, New front gate, New casualty entrance & security block have been completed and inaugurated on 01.12.2018. Dedication presided over by our beloved Bishop Rt. Rev. Mohan Manoraj, Mr.VincentPalanna, Administrator & Treasurer, KSD, Director Dr. J SugunaShanthi, Deputy Director Dr. Reuben Prakash J. Rev. Sr. Sujatha, Vice-President, KSD, Rev. Gurushanth, Area Chairman & the Board members. On the same day for the first time in history 'White Christmas' program for CSI churches was held at HMH.

Advt.

The Nurse's Graduation Day 1958

Oath taking ceremony-2019 for 68th Nursing Batch

Inauguration and White Christmas on 1st Dec. 2018

Solar water heater : Hot water supply for all the wards by repairing all solar water heater was done. Aqua Guard: Drinking water supply for all the wards, College of Nursing Hostels by replacing all the Aqua guard units by new ones.

Visitors: Former Directors Dr. Bird & family &Dr. John Eashwaraiah& family visited HMH in Sept. 2018 & appreciated the improvement of the Hospital & Blessed our beloved Director Dr. J SugunaShanthi and encouraged her to continue the work of the Hospital as the Director as wellas the Gynaecologist.15 delegates from U.K. Friends of Hospital Association, visited the Hospital during the month of October led by Mr. Derek Anthony, President, FOHA, UK. They were happy about the progress the Hospital & also they visited Mangala Rural Hospital.

Mrs. Jenny Knowles, daughter of former Director Dr.Tovey visited the Hospital in January 2019. Jenny & her team were happy about the painting, interlocking pavement , newly built main gate, casualty & security room.

Hospital Day celebrated on 8th Dec. 2018: The event was inaugurated by Board members, Mr. Guru Prasad & Mr. Mohammad Minhaj well-wishers of the Hospital. The project for the year was for the building renovation. Retired staff for the year were honoured.

Research:- The Epidemiology Research Unit has extended its research from observational studies to interventions.

Concessional Treatment: As a charitable organisation, we continue to provide free/concessional treatment to patients. During the year ended 31st March 2018 the value of our concessional services was Rs. 14,37,892/-

Republic Day Celebration – 2019: 113 years old Mission Hospital for the first time in its history created a thrilling atmosphere within the campus as many as 200 college of Nursing students, DNB Doctors & Security staff performed a March past parade. Our beloved Bishop & the Chairman of the Hospital Rt. Rev. Mohan Manoraj received the guard of Honour. The event had a cultural programme involving dance performance for patriotic songs & fancy dress for patriotic song.

PROPOSALS

To build new O T block with 4 OT & one Cath Lab | Renovation of Tovey Ward | Renovation of Casualty | Full pledged Eye, Dental Department & new Canteen

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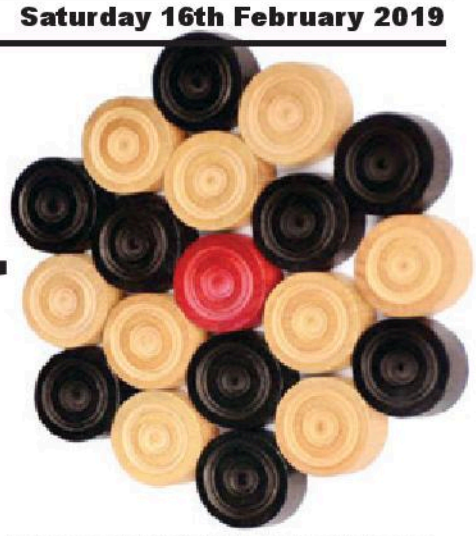

By B.C. Thimmaiah

In a narrow bylane of Devaraja Mohalla, a buzzing Carrom Club comes to life every evening and there is literally no place for one to stand during weekends and holidays. Men in groups gather here to pursue their passion — the game of Carrom. A plain look at the gully gives one a view of over 100 two-wheelers neatly parked on one side of the road. Enter the gully and walk a few metres, one will find **Sri Shabarisha Carrom Association.** The gully is opposite the Rajkamal Theatre, Shivarampet behind Katappa Garadi Road.

Every evening, people gather here to play their favourite board game after a hard day's work. The excitement is palpable, as men crowd around to play or watch. If the tables are full, they are desperate and patiently wait for their turn to chase the Queen.

Carrom remains a community affair here, a tradition that has been religiously followed since the last 10 years. Along with the game of Carrom, players discuss politics, their favourite leader and which party is likely to rule the country after the forthcoming LS polls. Of course, there is agreement and no quarrels regarding political affiliations. For them, the game is supreme and a favourite way to spend the evening, holidays and weekends.

"It helps us reconnect and share our sorrows and happiness while playing our favourite game," says **R. Surendra, Secretary of Sri Shabarisha Carrom Association.** The game is serious and intense. People come here just for the passion of the game. It is a leisure activity and a great way to bond and relax, he adds.

Earlier, there were many Carrom Clubs in Mysore in areas such as Ashokapuram, Shivarampet, Shanthinagar, Mandi Mohalla and Devaraja Mohalla. But betting mafia forced the City Police to close down many Clubs. "This affected genuine Clubs that did not encourage betting. Every Carrom Club was looked at only one angle — they indulge in **betting.** This forced us to formally register and form an Association. Initially, we started as a coaching club. Then came licence, stringent rules and regulations. We formed the Association and the game goes on, without the vices of betting," Surendra explains.

Apart from Sri Shabarisha Carrom Association there is only one more registered Carrom Association at Shanthinagar in city, Surendra claims. "We are affiliated to Karnataka State Carrom Association in Bengaluru and we have 180 members. A membership fee of Rs. 75 is charged and a nominal Rs. 10 is levied for a single game and Rs. 20 for doubles," he says.

There are seven well-lit tables in the Association and each table can accommodate four players. "At any given point of time, there are 15 to 20 people playing the game and the crowd swells in the evening and the hall is jam-packed during weekends and holidays. Every day, over 100 people play here. We conduct tournaments for members and we provide boards and referees for other people to conduct tournaments," Surendra says.

Last year, the Association tried to include Carrom as one of the games during Dasara Sports. "That did not materialise. This year, we will try again. After all, this is a mind game like chess and anybody can play as it relaxes the mind and body after a strenuous work schedule," he says.

The Carrom Club opens between 10.30 am and 9 pm and many people come from far off places. Like 56-year-old **Shankar Singh,** who comes from Jayanagar. An employee of Backward Class Department, Singh has been playing the game since 45 years and this Association has given him a platform to exhibit his talent.

"I am a State-level player and have won many championships, the recent being the one at Ballari. Many players come here and I have seen players coming from Chennai and Kolkata rubbing shoulders with local players at this Association," he says.

Fifty-three-year-old **Manjunath,** who works as a tourist guide, comes from Hebbal to play Carrom. "I have been playing this game since the last 20 years and have many friends here. The game attracts all of us like a magnet. We forget tensions and spend some quality time playing the table-top game," he says with a smile.

While Carrom has become an old-school game and is hardly played in households any more as the youth are hooked on to games on their mobile phones and gaming laptops, kudos to Associations like this for keeping the spirit of the game alive.

R. Surendra

Shankar Singh

Manjunath

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Revival hopes for Falcon Tyres

Meeting held in Bengaluru discusses reopening of defunct factory in Mysuru through Employees' Co-op. Union

Bengaluru, Feb.16 (KMS& BCT)- Large and Medium Scale Industries Minister K.J. George had convened a meeting in Bengaluru yesterday to explore the revival of Mysuru-based defunct Falcon Tyres Limited. Mysuru District Minister G.T. Devegowda, Tourism Minister S.R. Mahesh, Departmental officials and Employees' Union representatives were also part of the meeting.

The meeting discussed the rejuvenation of the company and contemplated several strategies on how the company could be revived as over 2,500 employees are facing an uncertain future.

The factory, established over four decades ago, was one of the largest two-wheeler tyres and tubes manufacturers in Asia.

The meeting explored the possibility of establishing a Co-operative Society or Co-operative Union through employees of the factory. There is a need of Rs.180 crore for the factory to be revived and the meeting discussed possibilities of raising the money through employee share and also mop up money through public offers, considering the profitability of tyre companies and also looking at other tyre companies that are making profits.

This suggestion of shares and public offers was given by officials from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) who were part of the meeting.

Falcon employees can themselves establish a Co-op. Union that is supervised by the Government. The Union can collect funds with the active support of the Government and with the funds, production can start in the factory and even marketing activities can take place, experts opined.

Ministers and Employee Union representatives agreed to the suggestions put across the meeting and it was decided to hold another meeting with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to take the process forward.

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Kilpauk Medical College Alumni Meet in Mysuru from Feb.18 to 21

All octogenarian doctors to discuss recent developments in the field of medicine

Mysuru, Feb.16- Kilpauk Medical College Alumni Association, belonging to 1952-1957 batches, will be holding their Annual Scientific Conference this year at Mysuru from Feb.18 to 21.

All the delegates are above the age of 80 years and ranging from 82-88 years. Though octogenarians, they are all very keen to meet every year and discuss the recent developments of various subjects in the field of medicine.

The inaugural function will be held in *Southern Star Hotel* on Feb.19 from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Dr. Nanjaraj, Dean-cum-Director of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI), will be the chief guest. T.S. Subramanya, Deputy Director of Mysore Palace Board, will be the guest of honour, according to Dr. P. Mohan Rao.

Government Kilpauk Medical College (GKMC) is one of the premier Government Medical Institutions in India. Founded in 1960, the College has been instrumental in producing many world-renowned doctors. There are four hospitals attached to GKMC — they are Government Royapettah Hospital, Government Thiruvotteeswarar Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Government Peripheral Hospital, K.K. Nagar and Government Peripheral Hospital, Anna Nagar.

The College is affiliated to The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University, Chennai. It offers a number of Under-Graduate (UG) and Post-Graduate (PG) programmes. It provides excellent training and state-of-the-art infrastructure facility towards medical education and patient care.

Traffic Survey from Feb.20 to 22

Mysuru, Feb.16- The Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department will carry out a two-day traffic survey on State Highways and district roads passing through Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts, from 6 am on Feb.20 to 6 am on Feb.22.

The Department will be setting up temporary chowkis at select points along the State Highways and District Highways for carrying out the traffic survey.

The motorists are required to slow down while passing through the chowkis for facilitating the survey, according to a press release issued by the Department's Superintending Engineer K.B. Prakash.

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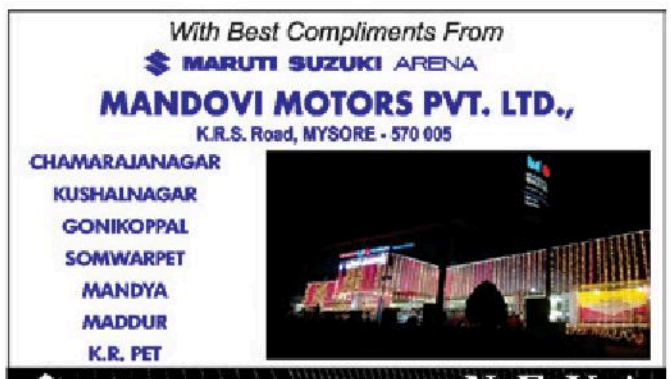

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Booktalk

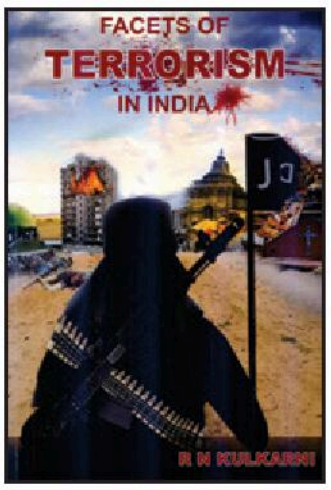
'Facets of Terrorism in India'

The word 'Terrorism' itself is terrifying as it means killing of innocents, fright, anguish, alarm, fear and panic. Added to this there are many forms of terrorism and one that particularly concerns India, that is Bharat, is the words 'Saffron Terror,' given to us by UPA Government at the Centre.

There are a lot of books written on terrorism happening around the world. According to Audrey Kurth Cronin, a Professor at the School of International Service, American University, terrorism is an ancient phenomenon and at its heart a weak tactic.

Now, to research on such a topic and going deep into the nuances of the word terrorism, author **R.N. Kulkarni,** who served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for more than three-and-a-half decades, has penned the book titled ***'Facets of Terrorism in India.'***

This deeply researched book is the result of a dispassionate, sensitive and faithful urge to seek a rationale and logic behind the accusations against Hindus in India-Bharat as 'saffron terrorist,' says the author.



Title: *Facets of Terrorism*
Author: *R.N. Kulkarni*
Pages: *418*
Price: *Rs. 400*
Publisher: *Kritagnya Publication*

Dwelling at length on Jihad, Kulkarni, who has held various assignments both inside and outside the country, urges the reader to read about the unfolding of Jihad-religious war in India and get enlightened on the subject. He concludes, "The endeavour of every religion should be to connect man to God, otherwise it is fraught with fraud. Man having human life should grow more divine and not a demon." **—OSR**

World Women's Heart Day

Mysuru, Feb.16- The Mysuru Chapter of Cardiology Society of India will be celebrating World Women's Heart Day on Feb.17 and as part of it, several contests will be organised at J.K. Grounds here tomorrow.

The contests include a spot painting competition for children of fifth to seventh standards.

An awareness march will be taken out from Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple at the Palace North Gate to J.K. Grounds at 7.30 am tomorrow, following which a public awareness programme on heart will take place at 10 am.

Also, the winners of the quiz contest on issues related to heart held for high school students at Colombia Asia Hospital and the winners of the culinary contest held for dieticians at Cauvery Hospital, will be presented prizes and renowned lady doctors of the city will be felicitated on the occasion.

A book titled '*Arogya Aadare Ruchi*' will also be released on the occasion.

Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEO Jyothi and well-known Doctor Dr. Vijayalakshmi will be the chief guests, according to a release.

General President
of Epigraphical Congress

Mysuru, Feb.16- XLIV Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India will be held at Hyderabad, Telangana, from Feb.16 to 18, under the auspices of the Department of Heritage, Hyderabad (Telangana).

Dr. D.M. Nagaraju, retired Director (Epigraphy) in-Charge for Sanskirt and Dravidian Inscriptions, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru, will be the General President of the Congress.

Award-Winning Lady Mine Owner Greets STAR

Rajee V. Raman, *the award-winning Lady Mine Owner of Mysuru (KRS Road), has been featured in Star of Mysore on her receiving the accolades, more than thirty times in a span of 35 years. Over the years, she has received various awards — the Central Government Mines and Environment Prizes, Mines and Safety Prizes and for Social Service.*

Wishing **STAR OF MYSORE** on successful completion of 41 years and entering 42nd year of publication.

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—Rajee V. Raman (Mine Owner)

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Thousands pay candlelight homage

(Continued from page 7)

Members of Mysore Bar Association, Vishwa Hindu Parishat, Bajarang Dal, Sainika Abhimanigalu, Mysuru Kannada Vedike, Mysuru Photographers Association, Yuva Bharat, Mysuru Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Mysuru Sahitya Kala Koota and a host of other associations led the candlelight vigils.

The protesters stood at the venue for almost one-and-a-half hours and expressed their solidarity with the bereaved families. Several other candlelight vigils were held in front of Mahatma Gandhi bust in front of the Law Courts, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle (Metropole Circle) and Rangayana.

Bodies arrive in New Delhi

Meanwhile, the bodies of slain CRPF soldiers were brought to New Delhi. The bodies arrived at Delhi's Palam Airport. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, among others, were present at the Palam Airport to pay their respects to the martyrs.

Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy sympathised with the family of CRPF personnel H. Guru, who hailed from Mandya district. Guru was among those, who were killed in the Pulwama attack.

"I spoke to martyred CRPF soldier H. Guru's family over the phone and consoled them. Their grief is heart-wrenching. We are with them. I have instructed officials to speed up the process of compensation," Kumaraswamy tweeted.

Speaking to reporters in Mandya, Guru's wife, Kalavathi mourned as she never thought such a tragic incident would ever happen to her and she could not pick his call though he called her several times to talk to her before the tragic incident.

The trainees at Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru, too joined the candlelight vigil at Palace premises last evening.

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